Writing Exercise #1

These exercises present photographic images to be used in ten-minute fast writes. At first glance, you may find nothing especially promising about them. But these exercises are not about the pictures. What is important is learning how to use them to explore the richness of your mind. Think of them as tools. They are gateways to your unconscious.

Focus your mind on the image rather than your thoughts about it. Whether you like the picture or not is beside the point. Learning to focus is the important part. Just allow your thought to flow.

You need not answer the questions that accompany the exercise. They are here to help generate material, nothing more.

Do not spend time studying the photos before you write. Think about them as little as possible. Look at the picture for a few seconds, read the questions, and write for ten minutes.

Here are the cues:

Part I

1. Look at the photo of the wooden walkway by Melissa Friend on page 43 of *The Eloquent Umbrella*.

2. Consider the following questions.
   - Where is this walkway?
   - Who just left the walkway?
   - Who just entered it?
   - Who made a date to meet someone on this walkway?
   - Who made a deal here?
   - Who fell in love here?
   - Who had an argument in this walkway?
   - Who found a friend here?
   - Who cried here?
   - Who laughed as they walked here?

3. In ten minutes, write a short, one-page story about the photo, or a poem.

Part II

Now write a brief, two paragraph critical analysis of your writing. Mention what worked for you, what did not, what was difficult or problematic, how you solved these problems. Mention what you learned from the exercise and what you would do differently in another such exercise.

Take another ten minutes for this section.

Total: 10 points.