

Soul and Role
(November, 2010)

Introductions:

- Name, role, and favorite season or current season story

Touchstones:

- Reminder of our norms for reflective conversation

Today's Theme:

- Current condition of your work world; soul and role
- Poetry as the truth told at a slant, storytelling of one's selfhood
- “Wooden Boats” What is the source of your “craft” knowledge? What allows this knowledge to become transparent and what about your work obscures it?

Reflective Dialogue:

- What word image or phrase captured your attention around the theme of soul and role in your work world?
- Journal prompts that grabbed the attention of your heart?
- Other noticings

General offerings for the group:

Closing:

- What would you like to carry from this gathering back to your work world at DU?

*Soul and Role Touchstones

- Bring 100% of self
- There is always invitation, always opportunity; never invasion
 - No fixing, no saving, and no advising
 - Openness to learning from others
 - Speak for yourself; tell your story
 - Listen to the silence
 - Confidentiality

Wooden Boats

I have a brother who builds wooden boats,
Who knows precisely how a board
Can bend or turn, steamed just exactly
Soft enough so he, with help of friends,
Can shape it to the hull.

The knowledge lies as much
Within his sure hands on the plane
As in his head;
It lies in love of wood and grain,
A rough hand resting on the satin
Of the finished deck.

Is there within us each
Such artistry forgotten
In the cruder tasks
The world requires of us,
The faster modern work
That we have
Turned our life to do?

Could we return to more of craft
Within our lives,
And feel the way the grain of wood runs true,
By letting our hands linger
On the product of our artistry?
Could we recall what we have known
But have forgotten,
The gifts within ourselves,
Each other too,
And thus transform a world
As he and friends do,
Shaping steaming oak boards
Upon the hulls of wooden boats?

~ Judy Brown ~

(The Sea Accepts All Rivers & Other Poems)

Wooden boats journal prompts

1. Brown writes that the boat builder's knowledge lies in her/his hands, head, and the love of wood and grain. In your work where does the knowledge reside? How would you describe that knowledge?
2. What elements or features of your work world block your access to your inner ways of knowing and being as a leader, teacher, or worker?
3. What would it mean to "return to more of craft within our lives" and work productively or intentionally within our faster and more modern time?
4. What are the metaphorical "boards" of your work that you steam and shape into curved forms that float your hopes and dreams?