

Age
10

Till

Now

Gwendolen McCloud Writing Resume

I have been a writer for over 37 years with an extensive portfolio comprised of short stories, novels*, poetry, children's stories, essays, and plays*. Examples for each genre: short stories (Under the Cover of Darkness); novels (The Hallelujah Hat, Strange Fruit, Lizards); poetry (Shine On); children's stories (Wilhelmina and the Whispering Willow Tree); essays (Smoking the Blues Away); plays (A Summer Burning). In addition, I am published in the anthology *Explorers* and on several literary websites. Finally, in December 2006, I released my first self-published book of fantasy food tales titled *Cake Tales: 10 Deliriously Delicious Stories of the Surreal*.

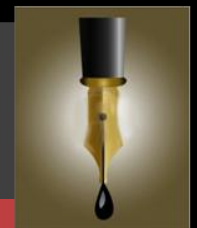
Please Note: Works in these particular genres are still under development.



Cake Tales: 10 Deliriously Delicious Stories of the Surreal,
an excerpt demonstrating my writing style (rhyming prose)
and capability.

**Buttered Rum Pound Cake:
Lost in Paradise**

Seashells born a scalloped indigo blue lay still, as the ghosts their voices invoked haunted the
sands with weeping
From tears that had traveled across the ocean for many miles; a nest of comfort their bodies
sought, eternally cast the depth of their needing
For a sign of hope that one day their owners would find their loved one, carried mercilessly away
by a vigorous tidal wave
Certainly they all believed in their mourning that the young traveler had met with an early and
watery grave
Even the striped tiger shells dimmed the roar of their gold; a midnight of a thousand blues
concealing the playful tapestry of pink, wine, and yellow
That speckled the island's beach in abandoned cowrie shells; salt water masterful in its distance, a
young sea lion prideful in its bellow
It began early one Sunday evening, the wind snapping like air dried laundry, and the sunset plump
with meaning and blossoming ripe
As the fried plantains he carried in a small sack, accompanied by peas and rice and kingfish
steamed to flaky crimson bright
Hot in a generous sauce of jerk; a giant whale casting a blue veil, its dance the essence of pure
tranquility
Rising and diving, the traveler breathed in deeply as he watched from the edge of the water, his
spirit stocked with thanksgiving and the importance of humility
When traveling the great waters, he made sure to toss a little food overboard, deepest symbolism
in his offer
For the sea had nourished both he and his family during lean times; generous with the contents of
its coffers.....
Yet he pushed out and on, the music playing, prideful flags waving, and steel drums twinkling in
calypso rhythms against the pounding backdrop of boisterous thunder
For a fiery prophecy manufactured from the materials of the fantastic was about to manifest and
tear his world asunder
Burlap shorts and a rigid straw hat, his feet wrapped in sandals fashioned out of ox hide
Would provide the only protection during his voyage; raw evidence that the young fisherman had
truly been tied



To the roots his mother and father had planted only eighteen years ago on a dirt road in balmy Negril
Sweat from his brow during his young days of frolicking, coating stray stones with a salty spill
Within minutes, the boat was tossing and turning over the swells of the ocean's breasts; milk from nursing mammals wetting his lips
With grunts and groans, the young fisherman grew desperate as he struggled to find a steady grip
Razor teeth dripping with barracuda toxins ached to engage his blood, as they competed feverishly with the dorsal fins of the stingray in their wish to reach him first
The speed at which the schools swam, akin to the kind found in the destruction a tornado does typically exert
Parrot fish in all of their brightness, could not drown out the presence of the dancing eels
As they, too, swam the distance of the journey; electrifying in their striped tuxedo black and white, reflecting in sordid appeal
As fairy basslets looked magical wearing blue eyeliner and black dots on the surface of their dorsal fins
With a mask of purple pink on the front and bright yellow on the back, shyly into the background they positioned themselves to blend
While lightning bolts pierced the water in a blinding flash; mighty firecrackers, then sprung back up into the air as two serpents, encasing him in a double helix coil
Contorting in pain, unbeknownst to him, the molecular basis of his DNA was suddenly mutating, causing his skin with sores, to boil
Snapper argued over what they were seeing as nurse sharks roamed around, their intentions not to drink his blood
While a more peaceful fish swam eagerly, in anticipation of eating out of his hand, the gentle Bermuda Chubb.....

Novels (In Progress): The Hallelujah Hat, The Quiltmaker, Strange Fruit, Lizards, Plenty

Essays (Completed): Summer Bar-B-Ques: Smoking the Blues Away (A Tribute to the 1970's), The Shattering Screams of Domestic Violence: A Universal Sound, Striking It Rich, The Stranger Who Lived Across the Street, How Shyness Enabled Me to Develop Clarity of Voice and Vision, All the Martians in the House Say Ho!, Money: The Great Equalizer, Growing Up Poor, A Tribute to Hip-Hop Music and Its Fans, Who's Calling Who a Bird Brain (I Wish They Sold Horse Sense by the Pound)

Plays (In Progress): A Summer Burning, Phillip's Story

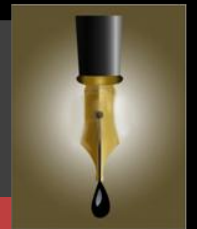


Poetry (Completed): Color Me Woman, This Man of Mine Makes Mighty Promises But Keeps Not Any, Man of Men, Life is Too Short: Count Your Blessings!, One Colorful Sister Gracing the Stage of Life, Chocoholics Unanonymously, And Then the Prophet Shall Rise, Dawn of Our New Beginning, When Souls Fly Free and Dance, Shine On!, Boughs of This Head, Twentieth Century Nefertiti, Little Kacky Dress of Mine, Eyes to My Soul, When I Die, Soothing Cool Breeze, Not Gonna Steal My Joy, The Sorrow in His Eyes, Lil' Baby Bird, Song for the Lonely, The Pitter Patter of Unemployment, Sometimes..., Ode to Toni Morrison, Madeleine's Cane, Once Upon a Time in a Midnight City, Mother Your Spirit Keeps Me Free, My Lover Unfound, Freedom's Tongue, A Christmas Carol, A Painted Woman Who Just Wanted to be Somebody, AIDS: The Great Equalizer, And Then There was One (A Tribute to Malcolm X), Conscious Mind, Dear Father, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: The Secular King of Kings, Dream Saga, Ebony, Echoes, Everybody's Always Philosophizing, For One Night God Granted Me the Gift of Flight, Howard's Way, I Can..., I Loved..., I'm the Epitome, Illusion, Incognito, It Oughta Be a Crime to Have to Work on a Day So Radiating with Sunshine Divine, Lil' Baby Bird, Lil' Chile, Little Kacky Dress of Mine, Lord Remember Me!, Make-up in the Morning for My Lordy Will Be A'coming, Marionette, Me and My Man Mr. Façade, Mermaids, My Family, Obstacles, Out of Tragedy Comes Poetry, Painter of the Earth, Picture Me, Plenty Of..., Poignant Flowers, Pointing a Finger At..., Repenting, Santa's Blue Locket, Secrets, Song of the Lonely, Soul Control, Space, Stay the Night, Sweet Child of Mine, Tattlin' Tina, Tears, The Christening, The Day the Resurrection Will Be Observed, The Fall of the Mighty Giant, The Healing Strength of Memories, The Rage in the Call from the Wild, The Real Mother Nature (A Tribute to My Mother), The Rose, The Secret Key, The Song of the Whippoorwill, The Visitor, Time, To Lose Your Soul Over Nothing, Troubles, Walking Down the Street, What You Expect from a Lil' Colored Girl?, When the Spirit Soars, Which Will Win the Race?, Who Will the Fiddler Be?, With This Ring I Thee Wed!, You Won't Lick This Lollipop!, Straight Hair

Children's Stories (Completed): Penelope the Great!, Bravo Bruce!, Wilhelmina and the Whispering Willow Tree, Mrs. Ragoo and Her Blue Shoes, This One's for Stacy, Dear Jessica..., Amazing Amanda, Roo Rubin and Lil Ruby, Edna's Egg, The Moth Who Wanted to be a Butterfly, Be Your Beautiful Self!, Big Mama Sure Can Cook!, Collette and Her Gold Coin, Dan and the Dollar Bill, I Love My Lemon Cello, Krazy Kurtis and His Magic Machine, Megan's Masterpiece, Mrs. Pumpkin Sure Was Somethin'!, My Big Sister and Me!, Red Clay, Will Play!, Sleepy Time, Star Struck, The Aristocratic Yellow Jacket, The Chipmunk Who Loved Junk, The Flying Ragus, The Little House the Ants Built, The Moth Who Wanted to be a Butterfly

Prose - Fantasy Food Tales (Published): Chocolate Tales: 10 Deliriously Delicious Stories of the Surreal. My book will be released for sale on Amazon.com and various literary sites in the near future.

Short Stories (Completed): Under the Cover of Darkness,
The Dollmaker



Comedic Sketches (Completed): Forty (40) sketches.

Please Note: *The number of works in all categories is continually evolving.*

