

Lineage Prompt:

Read Etheridge Knight "The Idea of Ancestry"

Write out your definitions of: ancestry, lineage and family.

- map out your family tree
- begin with you: who are you, where are you, how do you and where do you place yourself
- say so much. as much as you can. delete later if you must.

- move back in time
- who are your parents. where are they. What do they look like? Like you? Or?
- if you cannot answer this question, decide whether you are going to tell us (the poem) why you cannot answer this question (some *truth*) or provide a fiction of your selection.
- How will we ever know

- move back some more
- who are your grandparents. where are they. What do they look like? What do you remember? How much do you remember and why?
- if you cannot answer this question, decide whether you are going to tell us (the poem) why you cannot answer this question (some *truth*) or provide a fiction of your selection: How will we ever know

- move back in time more
- who are your grandparents parents. where are they. What do they look like? What do you know? – how do you know, what you know? (who told you, when, why?)
- if you cannot answer this question, **do you know why you cannot answer this question?** Who broke with the lineage? Why?
- make things up along the way if you want, or investigate if you want

- can you move sideways (*extended* family, cousins, siblings)
- Where are they. What do they look like? What do you know?
- What are your relationships like?
- Are these people strangers (extended) or are they something else? How did it become this way – if you cannot answer this question, decide whether you are going to tell us (the poem) why you cannot answer this questions (some *truth*) or provide a fiction of your selection.

- who do you most resemble? Why? How do you know this? Why do you believe this?

- Define Ancestry

- Define Family

- tell us one thing that this tree cannot tell us about you