

FM REVIEW 2009-2012 54

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: Everyone agrees this is a passionate, eloquent, beautifully written essay. However, I think reviewer 2 makes an important point about a certain disjointedness between writing as touch and the author's excavations of her own approaches and struggles with writing. I'd like to see if she could fine-tune the essay to tie in the second half with the original theme of touch.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: This is a passionate, eloquent, and beautifully written essay which I am sure will inspire other writers as well as give them into the process of writing. The analogy of writing to touch is unique and provocative - it encourages the reader to think about writing in a wholly new way. However, in my reading reviewer 2 does have a valid critique in terms of the insufficient connection between the first half of the essay, which develops the theme of writing like touch; and the second half of the essay ("Sometimes I write..."), which focuses more on various reasons for writing (or not writing). While, as reviewer 2 observes, the second to last sentence of the essay attempts to pull the two themes together, it is not completely successful. We request that you revisit this piece with the goal of continuing to work within the opening analogy in a continuous manner throughout the essay; or at least help the reader understand how the concept that "writing is like touch" is relevant to "creative" writing (in your definition), as well as to writer's block. We like this essay very much, only think it could be strengthened by a clearer through-line.

COMMENTS TO EDITOR II: This essay has succeeded in integrating its two themes in a cohesive and aesthetic fashion. The cover letter should inform the author that indeed, publication of these essays has been postponed till January due to journal backlog. The author notes the extra length required to address earlier reviewer comments. My suggestion (below) I would prefer be presented as optional, rather than required for acceptance. The essay reads very well as is, and an extra 400 words do not seem critical. I am making the recommendation in fairness to the other authors, who did not have the same opportunity to expand their thoughts.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR II: This revision now carries through very effectively the writing-is-like-touch theme as you go on to explore why you write - and don't write. The result is a well-integrated, intriguing, and beautiful essay, a real work of art. In terms of length, here is a perhaps radical idea - could the essay start with the second paragraph? We all know what touch is (although you do a lovely job of reminding us of the multifaceted richness of touch in the first paragraph). The focus of this essay is writing - maybe the analogy could kick off the essay. Please consider whether this might work.

COMMENTS TO EDITOR III: I'm very pleased with the final form of this essay. It started with an original and interesting simile (writing is like touch), and has now developed this theme in a coherent, creative, and very personal manner. It is a lovely addition that will give readers much food for thought.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: Thankyou for these additions that continue to work within the dominant metaphor, expanding and deepening it for readers.