A series of abstractions and concretisations of human good and bad qualities: anger, fear, joy, utilising imagery and colour to personify these qualities. Gendler makes each quality/emotion into a distinct human entity in order to expand and detail their essence. Words fail me. I have searched for two decades to find this book again!
Clara is raising funds for The Book of Qualities Stage Adaptation on Kickstarter! For our senior project, we are adapting and performing J. Ruth Gendler's influential book of poetry "The Book of Qualities" April 13-15. For our senior project, we are adapting and performing J. Ruth Gendler's influential book of poetry "The Book of Qualities" April 13-15. Created by Clara.
In J. Ruth Gendler's The Book of Qualities (NY: Harper, 1988), 75 abstract qualities come to life, walking and talking, borrowing Grandmother's shawl and telling scary stories late into the night . . . personification at its best! Precise, specific images reveal each abstract quality more vividly than any dictionary definition. After you read sample profiles in class, choose one quality from the list below. Check the dictionary and the thesaurus, exploring possible meanings and hunting down synonyms. Gendler writes of these qualities as if they were in The Book of Qualities book. Read 106 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. From Beauty to Compassion, from Pleasure to Terror, from Res... During the process of writing The Book of Qualities I felt like an explorer trying to penetrate underneath the layers and stereotypes to experience the Qualities more directly. I was turning my skills in investigation and observation inward, focusing on the textures and colors of the emotional landscape, calling on my training as both a journalist and an artist.