

Sussex Academy  
English 10 Summer Assignment  
Instructor: Mr. Marine

### **Poetry Response Journals**

Much of our work this fall will be an exploration of poetry. To help you begin thinking about poetry critically, you will need to select **three** poems and write a poetry response journal for each. You **MUST** choose your poems from [www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org), where you can enter a key word in the search bar to find poems that relate to subjects that interest you. Sports, musical genres, historical events, or scientific topics are popular options. After searching your key word, be sure to select “poems” from the left-hand filter tool. You may then use additional filters if you wish: time-period, school, region, sub-topic, etc.

You will find poems that require your careful thought and consideration to fully appreciate them. Remember that one of the most useful tools for understanding poetry is paraphrasing. Take the time to put every line of the poem into your own words. If you don’t know a word, look it up. If you find a poem that is difficult to understand with your first reading, read it again. The lines that are the most difficult to understand when reading a poem for the first time are often integral to your understanding of the poem and its themes.

Your **Poetry Response Journal** should convince me that you have read and thought carefully about your chosen poems. To a limited extent, it is true that a poem means what the reader thinks it means; you must, however, explain your interpretation with specific references to the poem. Please bear in mind the words of M. H. Abrams, editor of the Norton Anthology of Poetry, "There is no one, right interpretation of a poem--but there is one which is *more* right than any of the others." If your understanding of the poem is “wrong,” yet your journal clearly proves that you read (or misread) the poem, you may well receive full credit. Your grade is based on what you say about the poem and how well you say it -- your personal reaction to the poem and your explanation of the logic that led to your interpretation.

For each poem, you must choose any **one** of the following to guide your response. You may choose any topic any number of times, even the same topic every time; however, **ONLY CHOOSE ONE TOPIC** for each poem.

1. your opinion of the poem, good or bad, supported by specific references from the poem
2. an analysis of the poet’s persona, i.e. the poem’s speaker
3. a discussion of the title’s significance
4. a detailed response to a specific line or lines
5. a comparison to another poem, song, story, movie...
6. an examination of poetic techniques used, such as rhyme, rhythm, simile, metaphor, personification, allusion...
7. a close analysis of the poet’s diction, perhaps noting specific word choices, or connotation and denotation
8. a transformation of the poem to another form, such as a cartoon, a news story, a letter, a play, a soap opera, a commercial, perhaps a different form of poetry. **Graphic forms of this option require a paragraph length rationale.**

9. an original poem developing in some way from the poem you chose.
10. a paraphrase of the poem
11. a discussion of the writer's life and its relevance to the poem
12. a statement relating the poem to your experience or ideas
13. an explanation of problems you had in understanding the poem, citing specific lines, language or themes that were challenging to you.

**TO RECEIVE CREDIT: In addition to completing your choice of the tasks above, you MUST include the following in every PRJ:**

- ✓ the poem's title in quotation marks
- ✓ the author's name
- ✓ a quotation from the poem -- integrated within your own sentence, properly punctuated, and commented upon as necessary to show why you cited that line. **No Quotes Without Explanation!**
- ✓ specific references to the poem
- ✓ careful thought

**Length:** Approximately 1/2 to 1 page for each **PRJ**

**Format:** MLA format, submitted on Schoology when school resumes or shared with me over the summer via google docs: [cmarine64@gmail.com](mailto:cmarine64@gmail.com). **Except for option #8, digital submissions only. No hardcopies will be accepted**

**Due:** The first week of class

Please submit all inquiries regarding this assignment to Mr. Marine at [cmarine64@gmail.com](mailto:cmarine64@gmail.com)

**PRJ Rubric**

**A PRJ will only receive credit IF it meets the five criteria listed above under “TO RECEIVE CREDIT.” If a PRJ meets those criteria it will be accepted for grading with the following rubric:**

<b>Score</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>PRJ 1</b>	<b>PRJ 2</b>	<b>PRJ 3</b>
<b>9-10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Very detailed, sophisticated response to prompt</li><li>• Extensive, specific use of textual references and support.</li><li>• Excellent writing style: vocabulary/sentence structure/spelling</li></ul>			
<b>8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good response to prompt, may miss complexities</li><li>• Good use of textual references and support, but limited</li><li>• Good writing style – vocabulary, sentence structure, spelling</li></ul>			
<b>7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reasonable but not particularly insightful response to prompt</li><li>• Some reference to the text but minimal quotes, references</li><li>• Satisfactory writing style – some flaws or limited vocabulary/sentence structure/spelling</li></ul>			
<b>6 or Below</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increasingly simplistic or brief response to prompt</li><li>• Weak use of the text – few specific references or quotations</li><li>• Poor writing style – simple/flawed vocabulary/sentence structure/spelling</li></ul>			

**Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_/30**