

The first week back after the March Break will also be our last week of full-time poetry study. We will re-visit poetry again at the end of the semester but - for the time being - we're moving on to other things.

To celebrate the end of our poetry unit, we will carry out the following two final quick assignments:

Wham! The Poems Coffin has Never Read

Type: Standard

Due: Monday, December 14

This assignment is pretty simple. Each student must compose an original piece of poetry. Write it in good copy, and submit it for assessment. Make sure you make use of the assessment rubric to help you plan and write. Poems should be full of figures of speech, imagery, and elevated diction choices.

Some Particulars:

- ▶ must be at least 16 lines (no upper limit)
- ▶ may be rhymed or unrhymed
- ▶ poetic voice is writer's choice
- ▶ context should be evident when poem is read
- ▶ must have a clear tone (make the attitude clear)
- ▶ poems should be written with imagery in mind
 - let your words draw the mental pictures
- ▶ must have a clear genre (lament, ode, ballad, etc)
- ▶ must contain at least 5 figures of speech
- ▶ must have an imaginative title
- ▶ make it look nice when passing in the good copy
 - fancy font
 - poem should be centered on the page
- ▶ make sure you look at the rubric before writing

Slam! The Poems Coffin's Heard but Not from Me

Type: Standard

Due: Wednesday, December 16

Some of you may know what a poetry slam is all about. Basically, it is a competition where poets recite original work or - in our case - the works of others. These readings are then judged by those in attendance - in our case - it shall be Coffin-judged.

Some Particulars:

- ▶ you must discover a poem (not a song) that you enjoy. It must be published by someone in a poetry book (not on the Internet, unless it is by a well-known poet).
- ▶ there is no limit on length or difficulty. However, if you choose one that is beneath your intellect, you will receive a related grade. Choose wisely.
- ▶ all poems require Coffin-approval before the Slam.
- ▶ after your performance, submit a good copy of your poem.
- ▶ stand at the front of the room and deliver the poem orally - and with emotion and gestures - to your mates.
- ▶ a mountain of extra credit will be lavished upon those students who can deliver their poems without having to read from a book or cue card (memorize it).
- ▶ there will also be a self-evaluation for this one
- ▶ as always, check the rubric before presenting

MRHS English - Original Poem Assessment				
Poetry Assessment				
Categories & Criteria	4	3	2	1
<u>Subject and Theme</u> Is the focus on the subject throughout poem?				
<u>Poetry Elements 1 (Sensory Details)</u> Do sensory details and figurative language create vivid images that contribute significantly to the meaning of poem?				
<u>Poetry Elements 2 (Diction)</u> Is word choice vivid and exact throughout the poem? Try to avoid mundane choices. Stay away from the regular ones.				
<u>Organization</u> Is the form of the poem appropriate to the subject. Is it organized clearly to ensure easy reading?				
<u>Presentation</u> Does the poem show evidence of exceptional/insightful care and planning? Does it resemble a rush job?				
<u>Grammar, Usage, Mechanics, and Spelling</u> Are there no intentional errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, and/or spelling?				
<u>Overall Impact</u> Does the poem incite the senses and make the reader think about the subject in new/different ways?				
<u>Coffin Caliber</u> Does this poem represent the best work of the student? Have Coffin's high standards been met/exceeded?				
Poetry Assessment Sub-Total				/ 32

MRHS English - Poetry Slam Assessment				
Poetry Assessment				
Categories & Criteria	4	3	2	1
<u>Eye Contact</u> Addressing the audience directly. Not simply reading.				
<u>Verbal Cues</u> Tone of voice, pace of delivery, volume, pauses for effect.				
<u>Non-Verbal Cues</u> Gestures, facial expression, body language.				
<u>Enthusiasm</u> Positive energy, speaking in animated tones, no monotone.				
<u>Planning/Preparation</u> Showing rehearsal and practice. Planning is very evident.				
<u>Overall Impression</u> Was the slam successful? Was the performance worthy?				
<u>Pauses & Prompts</u> Points deducted for long pauses to remember and/or prompts needed.				
Poetry Assessment Sub-Total				/ 24

Immediately following your slam, you will be asked to complete a self-assessment. Some of the criteria to be assessed include:

- preparation
- tone of voice
- enthusiasm
- omissions/substitutions
- eye contact & gestures
- pauses & prompts
- behaviour