

the poetic word  
- a close reading -

Throughout the year, you will conduct several close readings of poetic works, explicating thematic, poetic, and contextual elements as they relate to our understanding and interpretation of the works. The close readings should reflect considerable thought and profound analysis, seeking to expose the various layers of meaning and significance.

Directions: You will be presented with a reading list of poetry for each of our curriculum units. Some poems will come out of your textbook, while others may come from various print and media sources. We will conduct close readings of one or two poems from each unit in class; you will then choose one of the other poems to perform a close reading and analysis. Your written analysis will include the following:

1. Read each poem in the packet twice (once silently, then once aloud).
2. Using the "Questions for Discussion," reflect after each reading on the thematic and poetic elements.
3. Choose one poem for a close reading and write your analysis.

Your close readings will be evaluated according to the following criteria.

Insight:	Do your responses indicate an original and critical approach to the reading? Do you investigate various levels of meaning? Do you evaluate the poetic elements accurately and purposefully? Do you draw clear and justified conclusions?
Fluency:	Do you utilize the vocabulary of literary analysis? Are your responses clear, thorough, and well-articulated? Do you write with the syntax of scholarship?
Evidence:	Do you implement details and/or support in your analysis? Is the relation to specific text specific and purposeful? When appropriate, do you refer to outside sources for support?

Required Length/Format

One page maximum, single spaced (double spaced between paragraphs)

1" page margins

10 pt. font (Arial, Tahoma, or Verdana)

Arial or Tahoma

MLA format (header exception),

Header (properly formatted):

Name	Period
Poem Title	Unit

Outside sources?	Outside sources are not required for this assignment since your analysis should reflect original analysis and interpretation; however, should you choose to incorporate contextual information regarding the poet's life, circumstance, or social setting, please cite the source according to MLA guidelines and include a full citation in the footer. Please try to limit your secondary support to one source.
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Units:	Gender Roles & Family Relationships - Good vs. Evil Illusion vs. Reality / Metaphysicals Alienation and Identity
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