

Poetry Portfolio

Poetry is amazing because it fuses music and speech...because every interpretation is different based on life experiences...because one day a poem makes no sense to you, and the next time you understand another that maybe nobody else does...because it can be like magic...because it can make you laugh like a three-year-old...because it lets you mess with standard grammar, spelling, and punctuation... because it forces you to be vulnerable in order to create something beautiful and strong...because it is simple and complicated all at once.

Over the next few weeks we will spend a great deal of time talking about poetry and writing our own in order to develop a poetry portfolio. Listed below are the types of poems we will read and create.

Poems:

1. "Jabberwocky"—A rhyming poem with at least 10 nonsense words.
Alliteration—A poem that has lines of alliteration.
2. "Alphabet of Nations"—A poem teaching children about a topic using the alphabet.
"Halloween"—A poem describing a specific memory about a holiday.
3. "The Raven"—A poem about someone or something haunting your conscience.
Concrete Poem—A poem that is shaped to match the meaning or feeling of the poem.
4. "This is Just to Say"—A poem that apologizes for something you are secretly glad you did.
Opposite Poem—A poem written in the style of an opposite poem.
5. Simile—A poem that includes examples of simile.
"Ode to the Eye"—A poem celebrating a part of your skeletal, circulatory, digestive, nervous, or respiratory system.
6. "r-p-o-p-h-e-s-s-a-g-r"—A poem that includes unusual punctuation and rearranged words.
7. Repetition—A poem that intentionally repeats certain phrases or lines.
"The Tyger"—A poetic conversation and question session with a beautiful, mysterious creature.
8. Synonym—Include at least 3 poems in the synonym style.
9. "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird"—A poem that describes one thing in several ways.
"Ma! Don't Throw That Shirt Out" poem—Free verse poem about a favorite thing.
10. Rhyme Scheme—A poem of at least 3 stanzas that shows the use of rhyme scheme.
"Casey at the Bat"—A poem about a performance or sporting event.
11. Acrostic Poem—Free verse poem using the acrostic style.
Personification—A poem that includes personification.
12. "The Road Not Taken"—A poem with a theme of choosing what others might not.
Metaphor—A poem that uses examples of metaphor.
13. Autobiographical Poem—A poem about you, at least 6 stanzas.
14. "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning"—A poem comparing deep, serious feelings to science and math.
15. Found Poem—Textbook paragraphs transformed poetically.
16. "The Argument of His Book"—A poem listing the types and topics of poems you have written.

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Requirements & Organization:

- Your portfolio must have at least 15 poems that cover all of the categories above. Poems may “double-dip” to include more than one category, but do not try to combine more than three styles and forms in a single piece. NOTE: *THE SYNONYM POEMS WILL COUNT AS 1 FOR THE PORTFOLIO.
- All stanzas must have at least 4 lines. For example, an 8-stanza poem equals 32 lines of poetry. Stanzas may be longer but not shorter. Also, unless you are working on rhyme scheme or repetition, you may write 32 lines instead of 8 stanzas.
- Binding—Use a thin binder, report cover, construction paper, or something similar to create a cover to bind your final poems. You may decorate the cover how you wish, but you must include your name.
- Table of Contents—On the inside cover, include a list of poems in your portfolio and what categories they fall under. Don’t forget to include the checklist below!
- Reflection—At least two thoughtful paragraphs explaining your ideas and feelings about poetry and the process of writing the pieces in this unit. Be sure to tell which types of poems were your most/least favorites and why.
- Poems—Your final selection of at least 15 poems should demonstrate your understanding of the various styles and forms of poetry.
- Illustrations—At least 1/3 of your poems should have some kind of illustration to match or enhance them.
- Font—Each poem’s title may be in any legible font you choose, but the all poems must be in the same font (something neutral like Times New Roman, Arial, Calibri, Cambria).

Poetry Checklist:

Use the checklist on the following page to help you make sure you have met all of the requirements for the portfolio. It will also be used to help me know which of your poems you want graded for each requirement. Next to each category, check off if it is complete. Then write the title(s) of the poem(s) you want me to consider when I grade that category. When deciding which poems to write down, a good question to ask yourself is, “Could my teacher use this poem as an example of ___?” Do not leave any sections blank or that category will earn a zero!

Poetry Portfolio

Category	completed?	Your Poem's Title
"A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning"		
Acrostic		
Alliteration		
"Alphabet of Nations"		
"The Argument of His Book"		
Autobiographical		
"Casey at the Bat"		
Concrete Poem		
Found		
Free Verse		
"Halloween"		
"Jabberwocky"		
Metaphor		
"Ode to the Eye"		
Opposite		
Personification		
"The Raven"		
Repetition (anaphora)		
Rhyme Scheme		
"The Road Not Taken"		
"r-p-o-p-h-e-s-s-a-g-r"		
Simile		
Synonym		
"The Tyger"		
"Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird"		
"This is Just to Say"		

GRADING

- All 26 categories have a corresponding poem: _____ /26pts
- At least 15 thoughtfully written poems. _____ /30pts
- At least 1/3 have appropriate illustration. _____ /10pts
- Properly formatted & presented (binding, ToC, font). _____ /15pts
- Written reflection. _____ /29pts

TOTAL _____/110pts