

Select a theme and choose ten representative poems, covering two distinct time periods or cultures. Explicate each poem while considering and analyzing devices utilized- including a discussion of 4-6 terms (previously provided). Remember the basic approach to poetry we rely upon is based on three stages of appreciation: experience, interpret, evaluate. Annotate while reading. The resulting “conversation” will guide you through careful and close readings, highlighting nuances, motifs, or contradictions in the poem, allowing for questions and observations, and finally creating an opportunity to paraphrase and come to an overall conclusion. Through this work, you will find specific areas you wish to illuminate further. An approach such as SOAPSTONE (Speaker, Occasion, Audience, Purpose, Subject, Tone) clearly answers these issues. Finally, consider the following:

- Title- does it offer a deeper meaning? Add to the dialogue?
- Where does the poem travel? What does it explain or confuse? How is this achieved (figurative language, climax, shifts in tone)?
- How does the diction set the tone or attitude toward the subject of the poem or how its reader interprets it?
- What imagery contributes to the meaning?
- Is there an overall structure, and how does the syntax affect?
- What is the central theme? How is it highlighted? Contradicted?

You will ultimately submit:

- * Printed and annotated copies of all ten poems.
- * Explications of all ten poems (table sample included here).
- * A three-page analysis of theme and how it is represented and communicated in your selected poems. Synthesize the resulting perspective by offering your own insights. Utilize standard MLA format.
- * Creative component (select one):
 - * in-class performance of one poem
 - * illustration- either original or published. If you select another artist’s work you must include a paragraph explaining your choice
 - * sensory/ show & tell object
 - * diorama

Excerpt	Analysis

Area:	Requirements/Description:
Makes a surface/depth claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The topic sentence of the paragraph makes an interpretative, debatable surface/depth claim. • The surface/depth claim is patterned by making a general claim about the poem's overall message and digging into the poet's mechanics and techniques.
Supported with Textual Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The body of the paragraph supports the surface/depth claim made in the topic sentence with textual evidence. • The body of the paragraph provides multiple pieces of evidence to illustrate a single surface/depth claim. The evidence used clearly contributes to a single pattern of meaning. • Your observations connect each piece of evidence to a surface/depth argument about it, which correlates to the paragraph's overall surface/depth claim.
Explores the Complexity/Significance of the Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The interpretation offered shows that the text contains complex messages. It explores the significance behind details in the text. • The surface/depth claim is interpretive and debatable and is specific enough to guide a focused, insightful discussion of the text. • The evidence provided requires and promotes critical thinking. • The interpretation given is surprising and nonobvious, but also reasonable. It shows you've thought insightfully.
Exhibits Strong Writing Skills in Organization/ Coherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The topic sentence introduces the author and title of the text.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first sentence offers the surface/depth claim and the rest of the sentences clearly support this claim. • The paragraph has an organization pattern that is easy to read and follow. • The paragraph transitions smoothly between evidence and argument. • Transitions from sentence to sentence and idea to idea are easy to follow.
<p>Exhibits Strong Writing Skills in Grammar/ Mechanics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very few grammatical and mechanical errors within the paragraph, which always has a clear focus.
<p>Use of the Conventions of MLA Formatting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Header in upper left corner with your name, followed by poem, then my name, and the date. • 1" margins, double spaced, TNR font • In-text citations with line numbers only- no author/poet name is needed as this will be mentioned in the topic sentence.