

## Guidelines for Poetry Responses

- A Poetry Response to a poem of your choice is due every other Monday by the end of the day (before midnight/the start of Tuesday). Check the calendar on our web site for exact dates, which are subject to changes throughout the semester; changes will also be announced in class.  
**PR1 DUE: 8/26/19**
- If absent, students should submit Poetry Responses once well enough to return to class.
- Students will only receive 2 Mercy Moments for the entire semester.
- Using a Mercy Moment means that the Poetry Response is “*on time*.”
- Mercy Moments may be used only for work that is **less than 24 hours late**.
- Any submissions made one day late without a Mercy Moment (or two days late with a Mercy Moment) will result in a forfeiture of 40% of its potential score (see the course syllabus).
- Over the course of the semester, students who have submitted all 8 poetry responses on time will receive a bonus of 8 points added to their PowerSchool accounts.
- A Mercy Moment will not transfer to other students; if lost, it will not be replaced. **Saving them does not earn extra credit.**
- Each Poetry Response is worth **20 points**:
  - **4 points** for clearly, concisely, and cleverly identifying a message in the piece. Make a bold, interesting statement **ONLY** about the piece you have read. Be certain that you will be able to prove it. Make sure to only introduce elements from the author that you cover in the body. Consider making a direct quote from the poem that you found exceptionally engaging before transitioning into the body. **BE CAREFUL NOT TO OVERCOMPLICATE YOUR INTRODUCTION.**
  - **12 points** for insightfully using scholarly commentary—avoiding plot summary—while making incisive, concise direct quotations from the work; once quoted, a deep discussion of a wide range of artistic elements found in the brief selection needs to be included. **This section requires methodical, logical insight into the IMPACT of literary devices employed by the author.** Devote most of your time and space to the most impactful and interesting devices. Simply tossing out the names of techniques the author employs fetches no reward.
  - **4 points** for **staying focused** and (for these Poetry Responses only) *concisely connecting the message identified to humanity and/or self: consider personal life, society (micro- and/or macro-), other works of art, literature, music, movies, television shows, etc. BE SPECIFIC. DO NOT INCORPORATE PERSONAL CONNECTIONS INTO YOUR RESPONSE TO QUESTION 1 ON THE EXAM!*
- Poetry Responses must be approximately 1½ pages typed using reasonable font size (12-point Times New Roman is ideal) and single spacing.
- It is **preferred** that each Poetry Response be **submitted electronically** through an email attachment (\*.docx is preferred) or Google Docs, labeling the files with **first and last names and “Poetry Response 1”** for the first submission and so on. **Failure to follow labelling procedures may result in a loss of points.**
- If a student’s technology misbehaves, they should turn in a hand-written Poetry Response so that the grade will not be penalized. After the Response is submitted, it will need to be typed and submitted the following day for actual credit.
- **Poems:** Choices come from each week’s examples of poetry discussed in class, of which there will be no less than three in the early part of the semester, as well as student-selected works. **Any poem with literary merit is acceptable, even songs.**