**What is poetry?**

What is poetry? Poetry is difficult to define. To begin with, it is obviously a type of literature which may also be considered an art form.

Poetry is writing in language chosen and arranged to create a particular emotional response through: meaning, sound, images and sometimes rhyme or rhythm. It has a quality that stirs the imagination.

Poetry uses only the most essential words in order to capture an emotion or create a picture. Good poetry is never trite. Sometimes we feel an emotion swelling in us as we read, but often we cannot identify that emotion or what it was in the poem that made us feel it. Therein lies the beauty of GOOD poetry. It speaks to the deepest, strongest emotions inside us.

A poet looks beyond the face of everyday things to the realities of life and the truths of existence. A poet expresses the truths he/she finds in verbal images – many drawn from nature including human nature, and many from the poet’s imagination. There is nothing in the human existence that the poet may not touch on – humor, despair, beauty, love, loneliness, death…

The following is your terms list for poetry. Fill in the definitions as they are discussed in class or discovered in your reading. These terms will help you understand the language of poetry.

1. Imagery –
2. Metaphor (2)–
3. Simile –
4. Symbol –
5. Tone –
6. Figurative Language –
7. Rhythm –
8. Meter –
9. Iambic Pentameter – (feet)
10. Free Verse –
11. Rhyme Scheme – (scan)
12. Rhyme (3) -
13. Alliteration (2) –
14. Assonance –
15. Consonance –
16. Onomatopoeia -
17. Lyric –
18. Ballad –
19. Personification –
20. Paraphrase –
21. Explication –
22. Parody –

During this unit you will be asked to read, respond to, create, and critically analyze poetry. In order to succeed you MUST do the following:

1. Keep this list of poetic terms 10 points
2. Recite a poem (published or otherwise) with no fewer 30 points

than 15 lines on 3/8

1. Create a digital poetry book 110 points
2. Analyze a piece of published poetry 120 points
3. Complete your daily journal 50+ points
4. Pass a unit test 90 points
5. Analyze song lyrics as poetry 30 points