

English 12

Learning Guides 14 & 15: Poetry & Visual Image

What you will hand in:

- For each of three poems, you will hand in an assignment which has
 - A citation
 - A discussion of the form of the poem
 - A close reading
 - A paragraph on the meaning of the poem
- An analysis of an image
- A symbol of your own creation that relates to your big question

Part 1: Analyze three poems

This really is a trick. I expect that you will read dozens of poems looking for the three that match with your inquiry question.

All of your poems must be published, and at least one of your poems needs to be a sonnet or other formal poem (villanelle, ode, etc.) All of your poems should be at your grade level (at least difficult enough that you don't quite "get" them completely first time through), and should be at least 10 lines long. Haiku are not acceptable, as they are too short to be analyzed for thematic meaning. Any poem from the poetry anthologies in the classroom is acceptable. If you wish to use a poem from another published source, please check it with me **first** so that we both agree that it is appropriate. The exceptions are a few poetry sites on-line that have collected poems that are in the public domain (this means that their copyright has expired, usually fifty years after the poet's death). Some to try are:

Representative Poetry On-Line (University of Toronto): <https://rpo.library.utoronto.ca/>

The Top 500 poems of all time: https://allpoetry.com/classics/famous_poems

Poetry Foundation: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/>

For each poem, do the following:

1. Citation /6

Cite your poem in MLA style. This is the publishing information. Don't forget the hanging indent!

2. Form of the Poem /6

You may write this information directly on a copy of the poem, or on a separate sheet of paper.

1. How many lines? How many stanzas?

2. What are the rhythm and rhyme schemes? (Remember that you only need to do this for the first eight lines or two stanzas – far enough to establish a pattern)
3. Is the poem Formal or free verse? How do you know?
4. If formal, does the form have a name? (sonnet, ode, ballad . . .)
5. Is the poem lyric, descriptive, narrative, didactic or dramatic?

3. Close Reading /10 (times 1.5)

Do a close reading of the poem. The easiest way to do this is to print or photocopy a copy of the poem, preferably double-spaced, and mark it up. Your other choice is to write out the poem.

You may comment on figurative language, sound devices, or any other poetic elements that you find.

If you mention “imagery” be sure to explain which sense is being appealed to.

The first example of a term is worth two points and all other examples are worth one point each. (For example, your first example of a simile is worth 2 points, and your next simile is worth 1 point. If your next example was repetition, it would be worth 2 points).

6. Literary Paragraph /6 (times 3)

Write a literary response to the following question: **what is the meaning of the poem?** You can approach this by looking at the theme of the poem, or by analyzing the symbols and figurative language of the poem and trying to determine literal meaning. Remember that like painting, poetry can be abstract. Your finished response needs to be about 150 words long, and should have the Format, Author, and Title in the opening sentence or two.

Part 2: Visual Image

For this part of your inquiry project, you need to choose a visual image that connects somehow to your Big Question. This can be a cartoon, a photograph, a painting, sculpture or other work of art, a chart, a graph, a map, or anything else that relies on images as much as or more than text to get the information across.

You should be able to print, photograph, or copy the image so that I can see it and so that you can use it in your big project at the end.

Assignment:

Part 1: Visual and graphic texts have particular features for communicating ideas that are different from written texts. Some of this you saw on your hand-out “Making a Poster Presentation”. You can get more information by researching on the internet. AS LONG AS YOU PUT THIS INTO YOUR OWN WORDS you do not need to cite your source.

The first part of your assignment is to:

1. Create an MLA citation for your image.
2. Name the format of your visual image, and the creator of the image. (“This is a painting by “Michelangelo”. “This is a graffiti tag by an unknown person.”)
3. **Briefly** describe (no more than 150 words) what this image has to do with your big question.)

Part 2: Create a symbol that represents your big question. A symbol is a graphic representation of a complex idea. Because no words are used, a symbol is open to interpretation. Your symbol should fit on an ordinary 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.

For example, this is a symbol for my Big Question, “Does acceptance mean that all people need to be the same? Can you understand why?”

