

POETRY DISCUSSION NOTES

Discussion Questions

(at least *three* per poem)

- As you read the poem, *what did you feel, think, notice, or wonder?*
- Be sure you have questions that focus on different parts of the poem (beginning, middle, end).
- Think about whom the poet is addressing. Who is the speaker?
- What parts do you understand? What parts are confusing?
- What feelings or emotions does this poem evoke?
- What message is the author trying to get across?

Create questions that come directly from your own reaction.

Important Lines (at least *three* per poem)

Those that catch your attention might be lines that seem especially important, interesting, puzzling, beautiful, strange, well-written, controversial, or striking in some other way.

Be ready to read these aloud and explain why they “jumped out.”

Words (at least *three* per poem)

- Find words in the poem that are puzzling, unusual, pack a punch, create a picture, or are unfamiliar.

Circle them in the text.

- You may also run across familiar words that stand out somehow in the poem—words that are repeated a lot, used in an unusual way, or key to the meaning of the poem.

Write the words, definitions (if unfamiliar), and your ideas in your notes.

Poet’s Craft

How has the poet used rhyming, metaphor, simile, alliteration, onomatopoeia, repetition, rhythm, or other poetic devices?

Jot down notes and be ready to explain.

Connections

(at least one or two per poem)

What does this poem remind you of? Does it make you think of another poem or novel you’ve read? An incident from your own life? Something in the news? A television program, movie, play?

Jot down one or two of your own specific connections and notes that explain them. Be ready to talk about your connections and tell your group the whole story.

Title

What does the title have to do with the poem?

Jot down your ideas.

Drawing (at least one per poem)

On a blank sheet of paper, sketch a full-page, detailed picture related to the poem. What do you visualize when you read this poem? This can be a drawing, cartoon, diagram—whatever. You can draw something that’s specifically talked about in the poem, something from your own experience or feelings, or something the poem made you think about.

Be ready to show your drawing to your group and talk about it.