**Oral Interpretation**

**Poetry Analysis and Guidelines**

**Guidelines:**

* Pick a poem that you like that you can present within 1.5 to 2 minutes
* Find an image that represents the poem in some way. It can be literal or abstract.
* Compose a formal introduction to the image and poem (we will review in class ways to accomplish this)

**ANALYSIS: (to be turned in on the day you present)**

* What was the message of the poem?
* What does the poem teach us about life? And/or About the human condition?
* What is the Theme? Themes are not morals. A theme is expressed as a statement. A theme statement is an observation about the human condition. To find Theme, dissect the fiction and/or poetic elements the author uses.
* What was going on in the world when the poem was written?
* Word choice that creates imagery, connotative meaning.
* Figures of speech, reveal meaning ; Identify any that are present in your poem

Metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, allusion, oxymoron, paradox, Irony Euphemism, Pun. Support your explanation.

* Symbolism: (repeated words are clues to this) what are the significant props or repeated images and ideas? How does the poet use sound to create the tone and mood of the poem?
* How does that tone and mood support your interpretation?
* Sound Devices: Identify any in your poem

Alliteration: the repetition of identical or nearly identical sounds at the beginnings of two or more adjacent words in a line or phrase.

Assonance: the use of identical or closely approximated vowel sounds within words., Consonance: the close repetition of identical or approximate consonant sounds within or at the ends of words.

Onomatopoeia: The use of words that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or actions they refer to – example, Crash! Bash! Boom! Pow! Meow. Honk.

Rhyme Pattern

* Attitude: Tone

The speaker’s diction reveals the attitude or tone. Why are these specific words chosen and how used? Overall mood, connotation and denotation, repetition, dialect

A poem’s tone can be positive or negative and should be expressed in more than one word.

* SHIFT -A poem rarely begins and ends in the same way. Poems convey an experience.

The subject in the poem may shift. The speaker may offer a new understanding of the subject, or the reader shifts because of insight gained. LOOK for signs of SHIFT: Key Words - but, yet, however, although; or Punctuation, Stanza Division, Irony; Changes in sound indicating changes in meaning.

**Additional Questions to Addressed:**

* Who is the main voice?
* To Whom is the Voice speaking?
* What is going on here, exactly?
* What sorts of people live in this piece?
* What are they saying to each other?
* Where is your piece taking place?
* What does the environment say about the piece?
* Are there any major characters that are never seen or heard from? If not, why?
* Why did you choose this piece?
* How did you select your cut?
* Did your cut enhance or change the intended meaning of the piece?
* What do you think the original author would think of your interpretation of her or his piece?