

June 2019

Dear Students,

Welcome to the eighth grade! I look forward to the year to come. Please review the guidelines below regarding supplies and the summer assignment.

Supplies -

Most supplies will be purchased through the school in the fall. Please purchase the following and bring to class on the first day of school:

- a sturdy 8-10 pocket folder - any style - accordion, Trapper Keeper, etc. Many of you already have the ones used in grade 7.
- blue or black pens, a red pen, pencils
- basic art supplies to include washable markers, crayons, colored pencils, glue sticks, safety scissors
- a set of inexpensive headphones

Summer Assignment -

- 1) Academic Vocabulary - Study the attached list of poetry elements and poetry terms. You are familiar with many of the terms already. We will work with these words in the fall, and you will be tested on them. The vocabulary will be essential to the eighth grade course work.
- 2) Informational Book - Read the DK Biography *Abraham Lincoln: A Photographic Story for a Life* by Tanya Lee Stone, Richard Hamblyn and complete the following assignment which will be graded for the first quarter:

Pretend you are a news reporter interviewing the Abraham Lincoln. After reading the book, write six *thought provoking* questions to ask Mr. Lincoln. Simple questions such as, "What is your name?" are not acceptable. An example of a thought provoking question would be, "Who was the person who was most influential to you during your childhood?" Write the responses you think he would give based on what you have read. Each response must be one to two paragraphs long. Complete in a question then answer format. Put a full heading. The title of the assignment is **Interviewing Mr. Lincoln**. It may be typed or written neatly on loose leaf paper.

3) Fictional Book -

*Read the novel *Nothing but the Truth* by Avi and complete the following assignment which will be graded for the first quarter:

Nothing but the Truth is a documentary style, epistolary novel told largely through letters, phone conversations, diary entries, etc. The last scene of the novel takes place at Philip's new school. *Your task is to continue the novel for one more chapter.* Pretend that Philip has been at his new school for a week, and write a three paragraph diary entry from Philip's point of view. The entry should reflect his feelings and interactions throughout the week. Put a full heading on your paper. This may be typed or written neatly on loose leaf.

I wish you all a fun, happy, and safe summer. See you in September!

Mrs. Macri

POETRY TERMS

POETRY OR PROSE?

Prose is the ordinary form of written language that uses sentences and paragraphs. For example, textbooks and newspapers are written in prose.

Poetry is the art of expressing one's thoughts in verse. Usually briefer or shorter than prose, poetry is written in lines and stanzas, with a lot of white space on the page. The two major genres (kinds) of poetry are narrative poetry and lyric poetry.

- **narrative:** A narrative poem tells a story. Narrative poems often have all the elements of a short story, including characters, dialogue, setting, conflict, and plot. Ballads and epics are different kinds of narrative poems.
- **lyric:** A lyric poem expresses the thoughts and feelings of the poet. Lyric poems create a single, unified impression. A lyric poem may resemble a song in form or style. A sonnet and an ode are two kinds of lyric poetry. Although its name, from the word *lyre*, implies that it is meant to be sung, this is not always the case; much lyric poetry is purely meant to be read. It is not exclusively love poetry. Many poets also wrote lyric poems about war and peace, nature and nostalgia, grief and loss.

BASIC POETRY ELEMENTS

form: the shape or structure of a poem; the way a poem looks on the page

lines: the arrangement of words; lines may or may not be sentences

mood: the feeling that a poem creates in the reader. The mood colors the whole poem.

Ex – dark, mysterious, cheery, happy.

poet: one who writes poetry

speaker: the imaginary voice a poet uses when writing a poem. The speaker is the character telling the poem and is often not identified. There can be important differences between the poet and the poem's speaker.

stanza: a group of lines that usually develop one idea. Poets use stanzas to give their poems structure and to help emphasize different ideas. Stanzas can signal the beginning of a new image, thought, or idea.

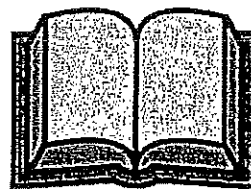
symbol: anything that stands for or represents something else. *Examples – eagle/freedom; heart/love; dove/peace.*

style: the distinctive way that a poet uses language, including word choice, line length, figurative language, and imagery.

theme: central message the poet gives the reader. The theme is the central idea that the writer communicates.

tone: a poet's attitude toward the subject of the poem. *Ex – sarcastic; serious.*

verse: one line of poetry written in meter; a stanza of a long poem or hymn. Verse is named according to the number of patterns of accented and unaccented syllables in the line.



Name _____



IMAGERY in POETRY

Painting with Words

allusion: a reference to a famous person, place, event, or work of literature or art

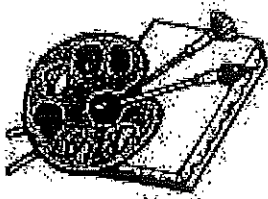
imagery: language that appeals to the five senses – sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch; sensory details.

idiom: common phrase made up of words that can't be understood by their literal, or ordinary, meanings. *Example – cat got your tongue, frog in my throat.*

oxymoron: a seeming contradiction of two words put together (jumbo shrimp).

figurative language: language that has meaning **beyond the literal meaning**; also known as “figures of speech.” -- you have to figure out the meaning

- **simile:** comparison of two things using the words “like” or “as,” e.g., *“Her eyes were as sparkly as diamonds.”*
- **metaphor:** **direct comparison** between two things. It does not use “like” or as,” e.g., *“Her eyes were diamonds.”*
- **hyperbole:** a purposeful **exaggeration** for emphasis or humor. *Example – tons of money, waiting for ages, a flood of tears.*
- **personification:** **human qualities** given to an animal, object, or idea, e.g. *The wind exhaled. The sky is crying. Dead leaves dance in the wind. Blind justice.*



All of these **sound devices** are techniques used to give poetry a musical quality; these can be found in traditional and free verse poetry.

POETRY TECHNIQUES

Sounds of poetry: A poem is like a parade of sounds through your ears.

alliteration: the repetition of the same or similar sounds at the beginning of words. Some famous examples of alliteration are tongue twisters such as *She sells seashells by the seashore* and *Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers*. Examples – *silver sails, satin slippers, creamy and crunchy, helpful hand. Waves want to be wheels.*

- **assonance:** the repetition of vowel sounds in words that are close to each other
- **consonance :** The repetition of similar consonant sounds, especially at the ends of words, as in *lost* and *past* or *confess* and *dismiss*.

onomatopoeia: words are used to imitate sounds. Words sound like the noises they describe. Examples- *buzz, hiss, zing, clippity-clop, cock-a-doodle-do, pop, splat, thump, tick-tock, whirl*

rhyme: the occurrence of the same of similar sounds at the end of two or more words. When words rhyme, they have the same sound.

- **end rhyme:** occurs at the end of lines. Example – *I went to town
to see a clown.*
- **internal rhyme:** occurs when a word in the middle of a line rhymes with a word at the end Example – *Jack Sprat could eat no fat.*

rhyme scheme: the pattern of rhyme in a stanza or poem will usually be shown by using a different letter for each final sound. In a poem with an aabba rhyme scheme, the first, second, and fifth lines end in one sound, and the third and fourth lines end in another.

rhythm: the patterns of beats or a series of stressed and unstressed syllables; the musical quality.

refrain: a line or group of lines that is repeated throughout a poem, usually after every stanza.

repetition: the repeating of a word, sounds, or phrases to add rhythm or to focus on an idea.

meter: the arrangement of a line of poetry by the number of syllables and the rhythm of accented (or stressed) syllables.

stress: the prominence or emphasis given to particular syllables. Stressed syllables usually stand out because they have long, rather than short, vowels, or because they have a different pitch or are louder than other syllables.

