

Poetry essay # 2

For this assignment, you will be doing more than simply explicating a single poem: this time you will focus on how two chosen poems (both individually and together) represent a **big idea** in literature. For this weekend all you need to do is choose your big idea/poems and annotate the poems.

Here is a list of very workable big ideas and some suggestions of poets and/or poems you could use. You may also look through your Perrine's book or other sources of poetry comparable to that which is featured in our book.

COURAGE Suggestions: "Courage" by Anne Sexton	MEMORY Suggestions: "The Summer I was Sixteen"	HUMAN INTERACTION Suggestions: "The Story We Know" by Martha Collins; "The Drive" by Billy Collins
ETERNITY/ IMMORTALITY Suggestions: "The Computation" by John Donne; "Our journey had advanced" by Emily Dickinson; "I knew a woman" Theodore Roethke	DEATH (see also: LETTING GO) Suggestions: "Because I could not stop for Death" by Emily Dickinson; "Remember" by Christina Rossetti; "Grief" by Elizabeth Barrett Browning	SEASONS (pick a specific season) "To Autumn" by John Keats "Spring" by Gerard Manley Hopkins "Spring" by William Shakespeare "Winter" by William Shakespeare "Those Winter Sundays" by Robert Hayden "Bereft" by Robert Frost "That Time of Year" by Wm. Shakespeare "Poem in October" by Dylan Thomas
MUSIC / MUSICIANS Suggestions: "The Guitarist Tunes Up" by Frances Crawford ; "Siren Song" by Margaret Atwood	OLD AGE Suggestions: "Ulysses" by Alfred, Lord Tennyson; "Song for the Old Ones" by Maya Angelou	EQUALITY Suggestions: "Cross" by Langston Hughes
INDEPENDENCE Suggestions: "A Man in My Bed Like Cracker Crumbs" by Sandra Cisneros; "Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou	COMING OF AGE / LOSS OF INNOCENCE Suggestions: "Incident" by Countee Cullen	LOSS/MOURNING Suggestions: "One Art" by Elizabeth Bishop "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning" by John Donne "No longer cry for me when I am gone..." by Wm. Shakespeare "A Widow's Lament in Springtime" by W.C. Williams
TECHNOLOGY Suggestions: "All Watched over by Machines of Loving Grace" by Richard Brautigan	TYRANNY/ OPRESSION Suggestions: "The State" by Randall Jarre; "Daddy" by Sylvia Plath	FAMILY Suggestions: "The Lanyard" by Billy Collins; "Lineage" by Margaret Walker Alexander
EDUCATION/KNOWLEDGE Suggestions: "Terrence, This is Stupid Stuff" by A.E. Houseman; "Scholars" by Walter de la More	LOVE Suggestions: "Little Clown, My Heart" by Sandra Cisneros; "Love's Philosophy" by Percy Bysshe Shelley; any of various sonnets by Shakespeare	MOTHERHOOD Suggestions: "The Whipping" by Robert Hayden; "To a Daughter Leaving Home" by Linda Pastan; "Just for a Time" by Maya Angelou
HISTORY (you may wish to choose a specific historical event) Suggestions:	CARPE DIEM Suggestions: "To the Virgins, Make Much of Time" by Robert Herrick; "Leap Before You Look" by W. H. Auden	WORK/LABOR Suggestions: "The Forge" by Seamus Heaney; "Night Waitress" by Lynda Hull; "I Want You Women up North to Know" by Tillie Olsen
WRITING Suggestions: "Digging" by Seamus Heaney	WAR/BATTLE Suggestions: "Dulce et decorum est" by Wilfred Owen; "Glory of Women" by Sigfried Sassoon"; "The Man He Killed" by Thomas Hardy; "Anthem for Doomed Youth" by Wilfred Owen	CHILDHOOD Suggestions: "The Chimney Sweeper" by William Blake
BEAUTY Suggestions: "She Walks in Beauty"; any of various sonnets by Shakespeare;	TIME Suggestions: "To His Coy Mistress" by Andrew Marvell; "A Dream Deferred" by Langston Hughes;	TRUTH Suggestions: "Constantly Risking Absurdity" by Lawrence Ferlinghetti
REBIRTH/RENEWAL/ SECOND CHANCES Suggestions: "Lady Lazarus" by Sylvia Plath	MIND/THOUGHT Suggestions: "Mind" by Richard Wilbur; "The Waking" by Theodore Roethke	HOME / DOMESTICITY Suggestions: "Sorting Laundry" by Elisavietta Ritchie; "Dusting" by Julia Alvarez; "Women Work" by Maya Angelou
IMPERFECTION Suggestions: "Much Madness is Divinest Sense" by Emily Dickinson; Sonnet 130 by Wm. Shakespeare; "Delight in Disorder" by Robert Herrick; "Try to Praise the Mutilated World" by Adam Zagajewski	POETRY Suggestions: "Ars Poetica" by Archibald MacLeish; "Constantly Risking Absurdity" by Lawrence Ferlinghetti; "Sound and Sense" by Alexander Pope	BOOKS/READING Suggestions: "There is no frigate like a book" by Emily Dickinson; "A Study of Reading Habits" by Philip Larkin
LETTING GO Suggestions: "Is My Team Plowing" by A.E. Houseman; "Since There's No Help" by Michael Drayton; "What lips my lips have kissed" by Edna St. Vincent Millay	PEACE Suggestions: "Peace" by George Herbert;	NATURE Suggestions: "Hawk Roosting" by Ted Hughes; "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost

Other big ideas that could work:

DUTY

LIBERTY/FREEDOM

CUSTOM / CONVENTION

ART/ARTISTS

HEAVEN / HELL

ASTRONOMY/ COSMOLOGY

JOURNEY/QUEST

JUDGEMENT

WEALTH

LANGUAGE

IMAGINATION

VIRTUE AND/OR VICE

PROGRESS

HONOR

REVOLUTION

GOOD & EVIL

DESIRE

ELEMENTS (or a single element)

FATE

CHANGE

EXPERIENCE

REMORSE

INDIVIDUALITY

FATHERHOOD