English 9

**Poetry Portfolio Project**

Now that you have read a selection of poems and written some of your own original poems, it is time to **choose** your favorite poems, **revise** them, **type** final copies, and **write** a prose account that explains this process to me. You will turn all of these items in for one grade.

Follow these steps:

1. Choose **four** of your poems. The assignments, corresponding poems, and focus elements are listed below.

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|  | Assignment | Corresponding Poem | Focus elements | Title / topic of your poem |
| 1 | Metaphor (riddle) poem – Tell your reader something about yourself. Use clues like Plath does to help your reader unlock them meaning without coming out and telling them directly. | “Metaphors” by Sylvia Plath | metaphor |  |
| 2 | Simile / Metaphor poem – pick a simile or metaphor that you wrote and construct a poem around it. | “The Fish” by Elizabeth Bishop | metaphor,  Simile |  |
| 3 | Personification poem – inspired by the overall structure of “Harlem,” write a poem that personifies an idea or object. | “Harlem” by Langston Hughes | person-  ification,  Metaphor,  Simile |  |
| 4 | Tone poem – write a 20-line poem that describes a task that you have completed. Use words and phrases to convey a specific tone (or series of tones) without directly telling the reader your attitude toward this task. | “Short-order Cook” by Jim  Daniels | tone, onomato-  poeia |  |
| 5 | Elizabethan Sonnet – Fourteen lines; rhyme scheme: abab cdcd efef gg; ten syllables per line; end with a “heroic couplet” that summarizes or spins the idea of the poem | “Sonnet 18” by William Shakespeare | rhyme scheme, meter |  |
| 6 | Rhyming Poem – Write a poem that describes something that has happened to you. Your poem should be 20 lines, divided into five stanzas of four lines each, and should have a well- defined rhyme scheme. | “In the Well” by Andrew Hudgins | rhyme scheme, meter |  |
| 7 | Definition Poem – Write a 15-20 line poem that defines something specific (may be a concrete or an abstract object). Incorporate some alliteration or onomatopoeia. | “The Door” by Jack Meyers | tone, alliteration, onomato-  poeia |  |

1. Revise each of the four poems that you select. You must change SOMETHING in each poem. Poets revise their poems as many as one hundred (or more!) times. Find something that you can do to make your poem better. Focus on effective imagery, convincing tone, exact word choice to convey your idea, sound of the words, deliberate line breaks, rhythm, and interesting rhymes.
2. Neatly type each of the revised poems. You may type more than one on each page if they are short. Make sure that each poem has a title.
3. Write a short (1-2 page, typed, double-spaced) essay with an MLA heading at the top in which you discuss your poems and explain how you applied the different poetry concepts in each one. **You must refer to each of these terms at least once during your essay: simile, metaphor, personification, rhyme scheme, meter, tone, and alliteration, onomatopoeia.** Set it up like this:

Introduction: Briefly introduce and explain the terms that you will be using in your essay and introduce the poems that you will be discussing.

Body: Write one paragraph about each poem that you wrote (six paragraphs in all). Discuss the images and the ideas that you are including and the literary devices that you employed. Identify moments from each poem that you think are especially effective and explain how and why you achieved that specific effect. Refer to your poems by title and quote specific lines when necessary; for example: *In my poem, “Falling,” I used the metaphor, “my heart is ice,” and the simile, “my smile is as fake as a counterfeit bill,” to express the magnitude of my despair.* You must use at least one quotation from one of your poems in each body paragraph.

Conclusion: What was this process like for you? What did you like/dislike about writing poetry? What surprised you? What did you find enjoyable? What was difficult? Which of the activities was most helpful to you as a writer?

1. Staple together in this order:
   1. Cover Page that includes your name, the date, “Poetry Portfolio,” and the titles of your four poems. Extra points for covers with artistic merit ☺
   2. Typed essay with MLA heading
   3. Typed, final copies of your four poems

Use the chart on the front of the packet to keep track of your poems and to make sure that you are using the different terms in your essay.

**Poetry Terms**

**Simile**: comparison of two seemingly unlike object using “like” or “as”

**Metaphor**: comparison of two unlike objects without using “like” or “as”

**Personification**: giving human characteristics/qualities to abstract or inanimate objects

**Rhyme Scheme**: The pattern of end rhymes between lines in a poem or song. It is usually referred to by using letters to indicate which lines rhyme.

**Meter**: the basic rhythmic structure of a verse or lines in verse

**Tone**: the author’s attitude toward the work and the audience

**Alliteration**: A repetition of consonant sounds, particularly initial consonants, either within or between lines.

**Onomatopoeia**: The formation of a word by imitation of a sound made by or associated with the word it is referencing; for example, “honk” or “meow.”