

*(Insert date here)*

**Greetings Parents and Guardians,**

In an upcoming unit, our class will be studying poetry. Although the students have studied poetry before, this “upper-level” exploration will help the students gain awareness of poetry’s distinct and important contributions as a literary form.

Poetry has a special ability to introduce its readers to complex human emotions and experiences using specially arranged language, imagery, and poetic devices. In so doing, it invites the reader to simultaneously experience reality through the eyes of the poet and through their own. Poetry creatively immerses a reader in the experiences of other people they will never meet-- enabling the reader to develop compassionate understanding and empathy for others. To accomplish this advanced understanding, we will be studying a collection of works by four important American poets-- Anne Sexton, Sylvia Plath, Sharon Olds, and Gwendolyn Brooks.

I am sending this letter home because several of the poems we will be studying deal with a sensitive topic—abortion. In reading these poems, the students will be exposed to the complex circumstances and experiences encountered by those affected by abortion. They will not be discussing the moral or legal aspects of this experience. They will engage with the human aspects of the experience and the ways that poetry uniquely brings these to light. I will be using carefully scripted questions for the analysis of the sensitive poems and their use will keep our discussions focused on our curricular goals.

**I am dedicated to creating a classroom community where students feel safe and supported.** If you have a concern about your student in relation to our poetry unit, I would be happy to discuss how I might best accommodate him or her. Please feel free to contact me at *(Insert contact information here)*.

**Sincerely,**

*(Insert teacher’s name here)*