

# Poetry Unit Post-Assessment: Teacher Answer Key

## Poetry Unit Post Assessment: Answer Key

### 1. Poetry is a distinct literary genre. What makes it different from other written forms of expression such as science writing, novels, short stories?

Students might respond with the following. (*Note: Responses might not be limited to these.*)

- ◆ Poetry communicates an experience in an imaginative way (like other fiction) but is more concentrated than other forms of fiction--a poem is more potent.
- ◆ The author of a poem intentionally uses the structure and arrangement of language to provoke a particular emotional response in the reader.
- ◆ Poetry allows an author to express a unique experience of reality to the reader.
- ◆ Poetry communicates both the material (physical, biological, etc.) and immaterial (emotional, spiritual) aspects of reality.
- ◆ Poetry enables each individual reader to interpret the poem and react to it in a unique way.

### 2. Based on what was discussed during the poetry unit, why might someone choose to write poetry?

Students might respond with the following. (*Note: Responses might not be limited to these.*)

A person might choose to write poetry to:

- ◆ express him or herself as a pathway to inner healing,
- ◆ bring a particular experience to the awareness of others
- ◆ promote the development of understanding and compassion in the reader
- ◆ have fun and to pass time
- ◆ make sense of their own experiences
- ◆ make a commentary on reality as they experience it
- ◆ express joy
- ◆ commemorate an event or individual
- ◆ to express a shared reality in a community

**3. Based on what was discussed during the poetry unit, how could a person benefit from reading poetry?**

Students might respond with the following. (*Note: Responses might not be limited to these.*)

A person might:

- ◆ find reading poetry enjoyable
- ◆ find validation of their own experience in the poem and feel “understood”
- ◆ read poetry to learn about how other people experience the world, their joys and problems, and gain insights and understanding of the human experience.
- ◆ learn from seeing how an author plays with language different ways how specific language can be used to express an experience.

**4. Choose one of the remaining poems to analyze, using the space in the remaining blank column of your Poetry Reaction Log.**

The teacher may want to create a more extensive grading rubric for this question, weighting the last few fields in the **Poetry Reaction Log** more heavily than the first few.

**5. Choose ONE of the following to answer on a separate page:**

- a. Can the lyrics of a song be considered an example of poetry? Why or why not?  
Choose one song and use at least 3 of the critical attributes of poetry you learned about to justify your answer
- b. Write your own poem using the confessional style. Be sure to include at least 3 critical attributes.
- c. Explain why poetry is important as a unique literary form and how it differs from other forms of writing.  
Offer and explain at least three specific examples from the poems we studied.

Because this question requires a longer, detailed answer, the teacher may want to use their own grading rubric adjusted from other writing assignments for this question.

**The following questions will not be graded but your honest response is required.**

**6. Do you enjoy reading poetry more at the end of this unit than you did at the beginning? Why or why not?**

**7. Do you appreciate poetry and value it as a unique form of expression (even if you do not actually like reading it) more now than you did at the end of the unit? Explain.**