Your Poetry Portfolio

We all have different tastes in food, in entertainment, in clothing, and even in poetry. From traditional to hip-hop, there are worlds of poetry between. Regardless of what you enjoy, it’s a good idea to broaden your tastes, experiment with different types of poetry, to immerse yourself in the poetry you like and explore poetry you may not know.

Every class day you will add a poem to your portfolio lodged on a google doc you will share with me. You can include a link to the poem or copy and paste the poem. In addition, for each poem you need include a list of important information which will include the following. These should appear in a simple list, numbered accordingly:

1. The name of the poem and poet (poems in quotation marks please).
2. A complete sentence that states the poet’s intent. This is something that you MUST speculate on. You can’t look it up on google, because it probably won’t be there. Trust yourself.
3. A complete sentence that states one theme of the poem. See the above comments concerning intent.
4. A complete sentence (or more) that presents at least two literary devices (you will actually have to cite specific line numbers in the poem). Let’s see how much you know! You’ll be learning more about literary devices as the course unfolds.
5. A sentence stating why you chose the poem (what specifically did you like or not like about it? What drew you to the poem?).

Where will you find your poems? Here are some suggestions:
- There is a shelf in the classroom stocked with poetry books
- Poetry Out Loud: Poetryoutloud.org
- Button poetry: https://www.youtube.com/user/ButtonPoetry/videos
- Poem a Day: https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem-day
- Poetry Foundation: https://www.poetryfoundation.org/
- Writer’s Almanac: http://writersalmanac.org/

There are some limits on the poems you can include:
- You may only include two poems that you write yourself
- PLEASE make sure you change it up and add some spice and variety to your portfolio.

Here is an example:

**Monday, November 15**

**We Real Cool**
by Gwendolyn Brooks
THE POOL PLAYERS.
SEVEN AT THE GOLDEN SHOVEL.

We real cool. We
Left school. We

Lurk late. We
Strike straight. We

Sing sin. We
Thin gin. We

Jazz June. We
Die soon.

1. “We Real Cool” by Gwendolyn Brooks
2. Brooks’ intent in this poem is to identify a perspective that youth have regarding school as an underhanded cautionary tale.
3. One theme of this poem is how differently we can interpret . . . anything, like youth, coolness, happiness, and even education.
4. Brooks uses a lot of alliteration in this poem “strike straight” (4), “Sing sin” (5). She also uses internal rhyme: “Sing sin (5) and “Thin gin” (6).
5. I picked this poem because it is short, but after I read it, I realized that I liked it and even though it is short, it really made me think about what it means to be cool. It seems that people who think they are cool are usually the most uncool folks.