

Poe-Dickinson-Whitman Poetry Project
READ ALL DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY

On **November 19 and 20** we will enjoy a Coffeehouse where two special projects will be due. You will create a t-shirt and memorize a poem (or poems) by Edgar Allan Poe, Emily Dickinson or Walt Whitman. Your t-shirt and the poem(s) you memorize should go together. Here are the details:

PART I - T-shirt (100 points): DUE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Choose a poem or poems that are a total of at least 20 lines by Poe, Dickinson or Whitman. Design a t-shirt that conveys the mood, theme, tone, etc. of that poem or poems. Your shirt may include a significant quote from the poem(s) or a picture that strongly conveys some significant element of the poem(s). In addition, the shirt must contain the poet's first and last name and the title of the poem(s) it refers to.

The following is the format for the t-shirt:

1. Include neat, professional-looking artwork or a quotation on the front of the shirt. The artwork or words must work to convey the overall mood, theme and tone of the poem(s) you have selected. *If you focus on more than one poem, look for poems with a common thread such as mood, subject or theme. This will make it much easier to complete the project.*
2. Somewhere on the t-shirt you must include the poem's title and author. These must be visible while wearing the shirt. In the case of Dickinson, who did not name her poems, you must include at least one line of poetry from the poem you have selected.
3. Your shirt must be school-appropriate, within dress code and you must wear it all day at school on the due date.
4. You may include additional information about the author and/or poem (eg. Birth and death years, your own ideas, etc.) as long as they all go along with your poet and his or her poem.
5. You will be expected to show your t-shirt design at the Coffeehouse and explain how it fits the poem(s) you selected.

Grading rubric:

- T-shirt is done neatly – 10 points
- Follows format and is school-appropriate. - 10 points
- Shirt contains a quotation or artwork which has a strong connection to the poem's overall mood, theme, etc. - 30 points
- artwork is eye-catching, neat and professional. - 30 points
- The poem's title and author are visible on the shirt when shirt is worn. - 10 points
- Shirt is worn all day by student on the due date. - 10 points

PART II – Poetry memorization (50 points) – DUE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19

You will memorize the same poem(s) you created a t-shirt in honor of. You must memorize the poem, including the title, punctuation and spelling of the author's name.

You will have the option to either write out the poem on paper (spelling and punctuation count) or to perform the poem in front of the class (your oral interpretation of the poem counts). If you choose to write out the poem you will be required to do so at the very beginning of class. Recitations will go by volunteer first, then by teacher selection. If you did not write out the poem and you “chicken out” of reciting it when called upon to recite, you will not receive a grade for memorizing the poem.

If you choose to write out the poem(s) during class, you may still recite them as well, but will be asked to wait until after those who are reciting it for a grade have finished. If we run out of time on the first day, we will continue the coffeehouse the next day with recitations, followed by volunteer readings. Once all readings and short explanations are completed, we will enjoy readings of other types from the group, including student-generated poems and stories.

Here are the rules:

1. You must memorize a complete, published poem by Edgar Allan Poe, Emily Dickinson or Walt Whitman. Alternatively, you may choose to memorize two shorter poems by the same author. In the case of Dickinson or Whitman, this may be necessary due to their tendency for short verse.
2. You may choose a poem from our textbook or a recognized poetry anthology. Be very careful if you choose to find a copy of your poem online as typographical errors and inconsistent punctuation are VERY common online. I will grade you based on hardcover publications of the poems, not online versions. One reliable source for poetry online is Bartleby.com.
3. The poem must be a MINIMUM of 20 lines long. Alternatively, you may memorize two poems by the SAME AUTHOR. They must total 20 lines of poetry.
4. You must memorize the poem(s) word-for-word, including spelling and punctuation. See number 2 above for a very important caveat.
5. You must either recite your poem during the coffeehouse or write the poem before the coffeehouse begins.
6. You must provide a printed copy of the poem to Mrs. Hughey before you write or read aloud so that I may check your accuracy.

Grading rubric for memorization:

- Student has correctly recited or written down the poem, word for word – 30 points
- Student has orally interpreted the meaning of the poem through his or her voice and tone (if recited)
OR student has included correct spelling and punctuation with poem (if written) – 20 points