

## Creative Writing Rubric - Poetry

High Level	
Truth and weight	Does your writing convince the reader that you haven't come to page lightly, that the material matters to you, and that the question you are grappling with reveals something important about you and the human condition?
Relationship to reader	Does your poem deftly manage the relationship between the reader and the poem?  Do your decisions about the voice and position of the narrator and their relationship to the reader match the subject matter?  Do you use a consistent point of view? If you switch, are transitions smooth and purposeful?
Tone	Does your poem orchestrate all the writing elements--words, imagery, sound, rhythm, form, line and stanza structure--to create a strong emotionally-slanted experience for the reader?
Mid-Level	
Description	Does your poem use the five senses to create a vivid experience for the reader?  Have you avoided cataloguing details that aren't essential to the poem?  Have you found specific packed images that suggest the whole meaning of the piece and draw the reader into the story?  Are you precise in controlling what the reader sees each moment?
Sound	Does the sound of the poem as conveyed through the line breaks, syntax, and flow of syllables matches the theme?  Do the rhymes, repetition, and pacing of the poem have a purpose and contribute to the overall effect?

Form	<p>Do the breaks in stanzas, the use of parallel structures, and layout on the page contribute to the meaning and experience of the poem?</p> <p>If you use a traditional form (e.g. sonnet), does it enhance the poem's meaning?</p>
Metaphor & Myth	<p>Does the poem draw upon metaphor and develops a consistent motif that provides a door into a deeper level of meaning?</p> <p>Does this use of metaphor and myth links to other elements in the poem?</p> <p>Are metaphors and symbols operating within the poem are surprising and avoid cliché?</p>
Narrative elements	<p>Are characters presented in the poem distinctive and have archetypal affiliations?</p> <p>Are details of the characters evocative and suggest their past?</p> <p>If the poem raises a dramatic question, does it provide a response to this question by the poem's conclusion?</p> <p>Is the flow of time in the poem easy to follow even if it jumps around?</p> <p>Can the reader always understand where the action of the poem is taking place?</p>
Close Level	
Diction	<p>Have you chosen nouns and verbs that create concrete and specific images for the reader?</p> <p>Have you used adjectives and adverbs only when nouns and verbs are insufficient for precise description?</p> <p>Does your poem avoid abstract words that cause the reader to want more information?</p> <p>Are you writing with as few words as possible?</p>

Meter & Rhythm	<p>Does your use of letter sounds and syllables within the line have a purpose?</p> <p>Does your choice of line breaks and accents help to emphasize certain points?</p> <p>If you are using a traditional form do your substitutions and line endings moderate the pace of the poem?</p>
Mechanics	<p>Have you proofed your work and corrected misspelling and typos?</p> <p>Have you used punctuation and capitalization consistently?</p>