

English 3201

Poetry Unit Workbook

Name: _____

Course/Section: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Poem	Selected Response	Constructed Responses	Total
<i>#1 - The Man He Killed</i>	4@1	1@6	/10
<i>#2 - Bad Luck</i>	7@1	2@6	/19
<i>#3 - Once Upon a Time</i>	6@1	2@6	/18
<i>#4 - Wife in London</i>	3@1	1@6	/9
<i>#5 - To Be Of Use</i>	8@1	2@3	/14
<i>#6 - Spirit of Radio</i>	n/a	2@6	/12
<i>#7 - To An Athlete Dying Young</i>	2@1	1@6	/8
<i>#8 - Student Choice</i>	n/a	1@10	/10

TOTAL:

/100

English 3201 Poetry - Poem #1

The Man He Killed

by Thomas Hardy

Had he and I but met
By some old ancient inn,
We should have set us down to wet
Right many a nipperkin!

But ranged as infantry,
And staring face to face,
I shot at him as he at me,
And killed him in his place.

I shot him dead because--
Because he was my foe,
Just so: my foe of course he was;
That's clear enough; although

He thought he'd 'list, perhaps,
Off-hand like--just as I--
Was out of work--had sold his traps--
No other reason why.

Yes; quaint and curious war is!
You shoot a fellow down
You'd treat, if met where any bar is,
Or help to half a crown.

1. What poetic form is used here?
 - (A) Ballad
 - (B) Free Verse
 - (C) Pastoral
 - (D) Sonnet

2. What is the point of view used in this poem?
 - (A) First person
 - (B) Second Person
 - (C) Third Person Limited
 - (D) Third Person Objective

English 3201 - Poem #2

Bad Luck

By Raymond Souster

1 This week my luck was all bad;
 met her twice, once on Victoria
 the other time Queen near Church.

5 I should stay away from those streets,
 but one must have somewhere to go,
 you can't keep walking around
 the same block day after day
 just because you don't want to meet
 the woman with the limp,
10 the woman with the crazy look,
 old winter hat pulled over her face,
 the woman who walks carrying all her belongings,
 talking to herself, cursing those she passes
 and this city that bore her
15 and will watch her die
 with the same beautiful indifference
 you'd show yourself
 to a cat tearing at a mouse.

1. What best describes the form of this poem?

(A) ballad
(B) blank verse
(C) free verse
(D) sonnet

2. What device does the author employ in lines 9 -10?

(A) allusion
(B) assonance
(C) motif
(D) parallelism

3. Which word best describes the setting of this selection?

(A) pastoral
(B) rural
(C) sociable
(D) urban

4. What literary device is used in lines 14 -15?

- (A) hyperbole
- (B) metaphor
- (C) personification
- (D) symbol

5. Which best reflects the theme of this poem?

- (A) Individuals often cope with difficult situations by avoiding them.
- (B) Society must do something to help the homeless.
- (C) There is too much poverty in modern urban centers.
- (D) You don't know what you've got until you lose it.

6. What is the denotation of the word "indifference" (line 16)?

- (A) Compassion
- (B) Lack of sympathy
- (C) Unimportance
- (D) Eagerness

7. What is the purpose of the lack of periods throughout the second stanza?

- (A) To emphasize the poet's bad luck
- (B) To convey the emotions of the poet
- (C) To create coherence in the poem
- (D) To mirror the poet's stream of consciousness

8. Identify which literary device is used in the title "Bad Luck" and explain how it relates to the theme of the poem.

English 3201 - Poem #3

Once Upon A Time

by Gabriel Okara

Once upon a time, son,
they used to laugh with their hearts
and laugh with their eyes:
but now they only laugh with their teeth,
while their ice-block-cold eyes
search behind my shadow.

There was a time indeed
they used to shake hands with their hearts:
but that's gone, son.
Now they shake hands without hearts
while their left hands search
my empty pockets.

'Feel at home!' 'Come again':
they say, and when I come
again and feel
at home, once, twice,
there will be no thrice -
for then I find doors shut on me.
So I have learned many things, son.

I have learned to wear many faces
like dresses - homeface,
officeface, streetface, hostface,
cocktailface, with all their conforming smiles
like a fixed portrait smile.

And I have learned too
to laugh with only my teeth
and shake hands without my heart.
I have also learned to say, 'Goodbye',
when I mean 'Good-riddance':
to say 'Glad to meet you',
without being glad; and to say 'It's been
nice talking to you', after being bored.

But believe me, son.
I want to be what I used to be
when I was like you. I want
to unlearn all these muting things.

Most of all, I want to relearn
how to laugh, for my laugh in the mirror
shows only my teeth like a snake's bare fangs!
So show me, son,
how to laugh; show me how
I used to laugh and smile
once upon a time when I was like you.

1. What word best describes the type of people described in "... they shake hands without hearts/while their left hands search/my empty pockets"(lines 10-12)?

- (A) detached
- (B) friendly
- (C) hypocrites
- (D) thieves

2. What is suggested that the author was made to do by "... all these muting things." (line 36)?

- (A) betray his inner self
- (B) feel alienated in society
- (C) feel rejected by society
- (D) regret listening to his son

3. The phrase 'ice-block-cold eyes' (line 5) is an example of which literary device?

- (A) alliteration
- (B) hyperbole
- (C) metaphor
- (D) onomatopoeia

4. What does repeated use of the phrase, "Once Upon A Time," suggest?

- (A) impossible goal
- (B) need for fantasy
- (C) return to innocence
- (D) unhappy world

5. What word best describes the speaker's mood?

- (A) exhilarated
- (B) frustrated
- (C) nostalgic
- (D) regretful

English 3201 - Poem #4

A Wife in London

By: Thomas Hardy

I--The Tragedy

She sits in the tawny vapour
That the City lanes have uprolled,
Behind whose webby fold on fold
Like a waning taper
The street-lamp glimmers cold.

A messenger's knock cracks smartly,
Flashed news is in her hand
Of meaning it dazes to understand
Though shaped so shortly:
He--has fallen--in the far South Land . . .

II--The Irony

'Tis the morrow; the fog hangs thicker,
The postman nears and goes:
A letter is brought whose lines disclose
By the firelight flicker
His hand, whom the worm now knows:

Fresh--firm--penned in highest feather -
Page-full of his hoped return,
And of home-planned jaunts by brake and burn
In the summer weather,
And of new love that they would learn.

In a paragraph, reflect on this poem; what are your impressions of it? Do you like it? Why or why not? Consider the specific lines/phrases which grabbed your attention or contributed to the poem's mood.

1. Consider each of the following responses. Assess each one, pointing out what is correct and what requires improvement.

Grade each out of 6; (2 for impressions and support, 2 for mood identification, 2 for examples and support):

(A) *This is a good poem. I like it because it does a good job in making you feel the same sadness that the author feels. The lines that made me feel this way were "His hand whom the worm now knows." This gives a sad mood because it shows that the man is dead.*

(B) I don't like this poem. It is too depressing. It's about a soldier who dies in the war while his wife waits at home and then learns the truth about what happened to him. The most depressing line is the last one because he wrote a love letter to his wife but she only got it after she heard he had been killed in action. Therefore, the poem is depressing.

(C) **I ENJOYED READING THIS POEM. I THINK THAT THE POET DEPICTS THE ANXIETY AND SORROW THAT WAS OFTEN FELT BY THOSE WHO WERE VICTIMS OF WAR IN PLACES OTHER THAN THE BATTLEFIELDS. HARDY CONVEYS THESE VARYING EMOTIONS THROUGH HIS USE OF IMAGERY AND PUNCTUATION. LINE 1 SETS A GLOOMY ATMOSPHERE WHEN IT DESCRIBES A "TAWNY VAPOUR"; A BROWNISH FOG, WHERE THINGS ARE NOT SEEN CLEARLY, THINGS LOOK UNCERTAIN, AND A GLOOM HANGS OVER THE CITY. ANOTHER DEVICE THAT HARDY MAKES USE OF TO CONVEY A MOOD IS PUNCTUATION. WITH THE DASHES AND THE ELLIPSIS IN LINE 10, "HE--HAS FALLEN--IN THE FAR SOUTH LAND..." THESE PAUSES BUILD SUSPENSE AND CONVEY THE WIFE'S RISING TENSION AND UNCERTAINTY.**

2. Now, answer the question yourself.

English 3201 - Poem #5

To Be of Use
by Marge Piercy

The people I love the best
jump into work head first
without dallying in the shallows
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.
They seem to become natives of that element,
the black sleek heads of seals
bouncing like half-submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves,
an ox to a heavy cart,
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,
who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest
and work in a row and pass the bags along,
who are not parlour generals* and field deserters*
but move in a common rhythm
when the food must come in or the fire put out.

The work of the world is common as mud,
botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.
But the thing worth doing well done
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.
Greek amphoras* for wine or oil,
Hopi* vases that held corn, are put in museums
but you know they were made to be used.
The pitcher cries for water to carry
and a person for work that is real.

parlour generals
- generals who avoid the battlefield
field deserters
- soldiers who flee during battle
amphoras
- two-handed jars
Hopi
- Aboriginal people of northeastern Arizona

1. Why does the poet refer to “Greek amphoras” and “Hopi vases”? (Lines 22-23)

- (A) provide analogies for the quality that she most admires
- (B) provide images that support her argument
- (C) provide metaphors for people whom she loves
- (D) provide multi-cultural references to give the poem a wider appeal

2. What is the effect of the phrase “again and again”? (Line 11)

- (A) demonstrates that people act too predictably
- (B) demonstrates that the poet loves hard work
- (C) emphasizes that the poet looks down on other people
- (D) emphasizes that the poet loves people who are dependable

3. What literary device is evident in line 4?

- (A) alliteration
- (B) assonance
- (C) consonance
- (D) onomatopoeia

4. What does the poet mean by “parlour generals”? (Line 15)

- (A) people who are lazy
- (B) people who distract from the task
- (C) people who give orders from a distance
- (D) people who offer little guidance

5. Words such as “muck” (line 10) and “botched” (line 19) are examples of what literary term?

- (A) cacophony
- (B) denotation
- (C) euphony
- (D) hyperbole

6. In this poem, what does the use of the word “love” (lines 1 and 8) convey?

- (A) a desire to be like others
- (B) a quality to encourage in others
- (C) a strong admiration for others
- (D) an intimate connection

7. In the context of lines 1- 4, what is meant by “dallying”?

- (A) getting immediately to work
- (B) treading water
- (C) trying to remain unseen
- (D) wasting time

8. What is the dominant element used by the poet in this selection?

- (A) allusion
- (B) analogy
- (C) emotional appeal
- (D) symbolism

9. In your own words, explain the meaning of the lines:

- (a) “But the thing worth doing well done has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.”
(Lines 20-21)

- (b) “The pitcher cries for water to carry and a person for work that is real.” (Lines 25-26)

English 3201 - Poem #6

Spirit of Radio

by Neil Peart

Begin the day with a friendly voice
A companion unobtrusive
Plays that song that's so elusive
And the magic music makes your morning mood

Off on your way, hit the open road
There is magic at your fingers
For the Spirit ever lingers
Undemanding contact in your happy solitude

Invisible airwaves crackle with life
Bright antennae bristle with the energy
Emotional feedback on timeless wavelength
Bearing a gift beyond price, almost free

All this machinery making modern music
Can still be open hearted
Not so coldly charted
It's really just a question of your honesty, yeah
Your honesty
One likes to believe in the freedom of music
But glittering prizes and endless compromises
Shatter the illusion of integrity

For the words of the prophets were written on the studio wall
Concert hall
And echoes with the sounds of salesmen

1. Define *tone*. Identify the tone of this selection. With reference to 2 specific examples, show how this particular tone achieved?

English 3201 - Poem #7

To An Athlete Dying Young

By A.E. Housman

The time you won your town the race
We chaired you through the market-place;
Man and boy stood cheering by,
And home we brought you shoulder-high.

Today, the road all runners come,
Shoulder-high we bring you home,
And set you at your threshold down,
Townsmen of a stiller town.

Smart lad, to slip betimes away
From fields where glory does not stay,
And early though the laurel grows
It withers quicker than the rose.

Eyes the shady night has shut
Cannot see the record cut,
And silence sounds no worse than cheers
After earth has stopped the ears.

Now you will not swell the rout
Of lads that wore their honours out,
Runners whom renown outran
And the name died before the man.

So set, before its echoes fade,
The fleet foot on the sill of shade,
And hold to the low lintel up
The still-defended challenge-cup.

And round that early-laurelled head
Will flock to gaze the strengthless dead,
And find unwithered on its curls
The garland briefer than a girl's.

1. What is the poetic form used here?
 - (A) Ballad
 - (B) Free Verse
 - (C) Lyric
 - (D) Villanelle

2. What poetic device is being used with the reference to “shady night”? (stanza 3)

- (A) Assonance
- (B) Figurative Language
- (C) Hyperbole
- (D) Onomatopoeia

3. Using reference to any two poetic devices, explain how the poet’s theme is conveyed to his audience.

English 3201 - Poem #8

Student Choice

Choose your favorite work of poetry (one that we have not covered in class). Answer the following:

1. Explain how any 2 poetic devices are used to evoke a particular mood.
