

Poetry Rubric

Category	4	3	2	1
Originality and Depth	The poem communicates exceptionally fresh, creative, or imaginative ideas that are especially substantive or insightful and well beyond the commonplace.	The poem communicates convincing ideas that are creative, imaginative, substantive, or insightful.	The poem communicates few creative, imaginative, substantive, or insightful ideas.	The poem communicates no creative, imaginative, substantive, or insightful ideas.
Elaboration and Articulation	Skillful elaboration develops the topic or theme of the poem. Rich vocabulary and/or figurative language are used. Poetic devices that are present, such as alliteration, rhyme, or personification, enhance the thrust of the poem.	Elaboration, exposition of details, and use of descriptive language are generally effective. Poetic devices, if employed, complement the poem's message.	Elaboration, exposition of details, and use of descriptive language are minimal. If present, poetic devices seem forced.	The poem includes no exposition of details or descriptive language. Word choice is commonplace.
Emotional Expressiveness	The poem expresses fervent sentiments; it radiates an unmistakable spirit. It is apt to challenge, amuse, compel reflection by, or otherwise evoke a marked response from the reader.	The poem is somewhat emotive. It is likely to evoke reflection by, or emotional response from, the reader to some degree.	The poem expresses few feelings. It is likely to elicit only a minimal response from or reflection by the reader if any.	The poem expresses no emotion. It does not elicit a response from or reflection by the reader.
Imagery	Evocative sensory details infuse the poem with vivid images which enhance the essence of the poem and provide delight for the reader. The poem as a whole may comprise an insightful metaphor.	Sensory details that evoke mental images for the reader, and metaphorical elements, if present, are consistent with the topic or theme of the poem.	Some sensory detail is included, to minimal effect. Use of metaphor, if present, is not apt.	No sensory images are evoked.
Unity and Cohesiveness	The poem is definitely focused, though perhaps subtly, on an underlying topic, idea, or theme. The components of the poem flow together smoothly and complement the whole.	A central topic, idea, or theme is evident. The components of the poem flow together sufficiently to convey a message.	The poem's central topic, idea, or theme is difficult to discern or is interrupted by elements that don't fit in with the whole.	There is no discernible focus or purpose to the poem. Ideas seem disjointed.

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