**Senior Creative Writing: Poetry Unit (8/30-10/11)**

We’ll make a contract for four poems to be written during each cycle, split between two separate days (see schedule). For the contract, we may or may not select from topics or assignments listed on page 3. Poets are free to disregard the contract assignment and, instead, write poems of their own choosing.

Poem due dates are “workshop” days. On workshop days, two poems are due, but poets should select **one** poem to share and bring in **26** typed copies (if possible: use partial pages and reuse blank page-backs to save paper).\*\* Poets need only bring one typed copy of the other—non-shared—poem to hand in to the instructor.

At the beginning of each “workshop,” without pausing for discussion, everyone will read their poem. When all the poems have been read, we’ll discuss as many as we can in large- or small-group format. In most cases, these discussions will be brief.

Poets will receive written feedback from the instructor on at least one of their two poems due on workshop days.

Poets should read a few poems a day from *Poetry 180* or *180 More* during this unit. When you find one you like, look up that poet, and find and read a few more poems by them.

**Fri 8/30:** Unit Outline; Contract #1

**Wed 9/4:** A History of Poetry; Free Verse Definition and

Examples; Poems about Writing

**Thurs 9/5:** Blank Verse + Enjambment

**Fri 9/6: Workshop #1**

**Required Poem: Free verse (no rhyme, no meter)**

**Elected Poem:**

**Tues 9/10:** Titles

**Wed 9/11: Workshop #2**

**Required Poem: Loose Blank Verse with enjambment**

**Elected Poem:**

**Fri 9/13:** Sonnets

**Mon 9/16:** Unrhymed Couplets

**Tues 9/17: Workshop #3**

**Required Poem: Customized Sonnet**

**Elected Poem:**

**Thurs 9/19:** Endings

**Fri 9/20: Workshop #4**

**Required Poem: Unrhymed couplets**

**Elected Poem:**

**Tues 9/24:** Syllabic Poetry; Villanelles

**Wed 9/25:** Openings I

**Thurs 9/26: Workshop #5**

**Required Poem: Syllabic Poem**

**Elected Poem:**

**Tues 10/1:** Openings II

**Wed 10/2: Workshop #6**

**Required Poem: Villanelle**

**Elected Poem:**

**Fri 10/4, Mon 10/7, Tues 10/8:** in-class work/conference

**Fri 10/11:** Q1 Portfolio due

**\*\***I believe our poems are worth the paper it takes to print them, and I think poems do more for us on page than screen, but I also don’t want to be a dinosaur. I am open to sharing work electronically after the first couple workshops--that will be up to you.

**A Beginning List of Poem Topics or Assignments**

Dog identity body

Soup coffee the news

Painting faith dead

Photograph dirt money

Home relative hour

Book swimming asparagus

Math hate river

Pleasure dance instant

Duet improper bird

Fire box idea

Fear beautiful moth

Number dirty monster

Fog clean job

Toy neighbor grief

God garden change

House machine a word

Face lost early

Candle instrument late

Gun fiction dessert

Travel work day of the week

Shopping polite poem in two stanzas

Early memory quirk poem using the whole page

Statue food poem in lines of

Car public place varying length

Music injustice skinny poem

Tree good long poem

Phone call cold short poem

That day computer anti-sonnet

Political light poem depending on a pun

Predator furniture poem responding to a poem

Tv bold random

Unpoetic flying things that go away and come

City comfort back

Illness “The moment I grew up” research poem

Misundertanding lunch list poem

Sport disgrace accident

Spot rant song

Color sibling poem depending on a joke

Teacher sacred object irrational hatred

Season awkward humiliating moment

Strange church Really Long Sentence

Person in history goat

Where-I-Come-From Pillow

Secret extra

Spiritual school