10H Remote Learning Assignment #1

1. Go to the link below:

<https://www.loc.gov/poetry/180/p180-list.html>

You should see a list of 180 poems, and when you click on each title, the poem appears. These poems all come from the same anthology I’ve used to teach an intensive poetry-writing unit in the past—it’s the digital version of a previously published book. **Spend 20 or more minutes browsing these poems.** Click on them and read them once, twice if you’d like, either in order nor not in order. You should also feel free to stop reading a particular poem if you’re not into it. These aren’t the kind of poem that you have to read 7 times to tap the surface of. They are mostly accessible after a single read—these are the kind of poem I like, and I hope you will like them too. The purpose of this activity is to find a least one or two poems that you can honestly say you like.

1. Write me a 3-paragraph letter or email.

In the 1st paragraph, **tell me what’s up**. How have you been doing? What have been the most and least pleasurable/fulfilling ways you’ve been spending your time?

In the 2nd paragraph, tell me about **a prior experience of a poem** you’ve had. It could be an experience of reading a poem or writing a poem—positive, negative, or medium—from any time in your life.

In the 3rd paragraph, tell me **which poem or poems from *Poetry 180* you liked the most, and why**. Try to be specific here. When in the poem did you decide you liked it? What about it was responsible for that effect? This is important to figure out because I’m going to ask you to write some poems of your own. I want you to like your own poems, and in order to do that you need to know what aspects of good poem-writing you’d like to emulate.

**If you choose to accept this mission, complete it by Monday 3/23—send me your letter/email by that day, and I’ll read it and try to respond quickly.**

**If you’d like an additional challenge, read all 180 poems instead of stopping after 20 minutes. I promise you that would be time well-spent.**