

## *The Language of Life: Exploring Connections in European and American Poetry*

Around the world, people choose to write poetry to express their inner passion, fears and dreams. While the forms and language differ, the intent is always the same: to capture a moment in time on the page so that it can be experienced again or reexamined. In addition to practicing critical reading, writing and thinking skills, we will also focus on what draws us together despite our sometimes profound cultural differences. Throughout the unit, you will be expected to complete the following activities:

### *Poetry Pedagogy - Theme Connection Presentation*

With a small group of students, you will look at poems from around the world that are focused on a particular theme. Once you have a thorough understanding of the poems, you will present the poems to the class. Your presentation can take many forms, but you are expected to lead a discussion or teach a lesson that helps the class analyze at least one of the poems, and identifies the poetic devices present in the poem.

### *Building a Form*

Using the information you learn from the poetic form station work and your understanding of poetic devices, you will write your own formed poem (an ode, sonnet, villanelle or spoken word). The responses should be formatted according to MLA guidelines, and must be submitted to TurnItIn.com. **Due on Monday, June 10.**

### *Responding to Poetry*

You will select three poems from a provided collection, and write three formal responses to those poems. Part of this response asks you to examine how a poem's devices reveal the poet's theme. The final drafts of the three responses are due on **Friday, June 21**. The responses should be formatted according to MLA guidelines, and must be submitted to TurnItIn.com.

### *Poetic Devices Exam*

You will be asked to identify, explain, analyze and create the various poetic devices we study during the unit. Because of this exam, it is **extremely** important that you take notes on the definitions and examples of poetic devices that we go over in class. These notes will be invaluable for studying, and will be turned in on the day of the exam.

*The exam will be given on **Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>**.*

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Your Vocabulary Final Exam over Units 8-15 will be given during the final exam period on **Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>**.