**E.Q: What is poetry?**

**?**

Objectives:

* Together with your group, generate a list of necessary characteristics a poem must have and a definition of poetry.
* Evaluate the definitions of poets and literary critics

Choose roles for each person in your group. Record the names below. You have **3 minutes.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Timekeeper** is responsible for making sure the group stays on task and finishes in time, and that no one oversteps their time limit. The timekeeper also reads the directions thoroughly and ensure his or her group follows them.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Recorder/Note taker** records group brainstorming and takes and shares the authoritative version of notes.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Discussion Manager** leads the discussion and makes sure that each member has the chance to share. Prompt members to give reasons and explanations for opinions when necessary.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Presenter** is the spokesperson of the group for large group sharing.

**Part 1:**

Step 1: Each member of the group reads each text individually. Below, classify each as "poetry" or "not poetry." **9 minutes**

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| --- | --- |
| **Poetry** | **Not Poetry** |
|  |  |

Step 2: Discuss each text one by one. Each member of the group must give her classification for each text AND her reasoning. Place each text in one of three stacks: Poem, Not-a-Poem, or Undecided. **5 minutes**

Step 3: Create a list of essential characteristics of a poem. Also include any characteristics that some poems may share, but which are NOT essential, or mandatory. Record the list below. **5 minutes**

Step 4: Return to any undecided texts. Classify them based on your list of essential characteristics. **3 minutes**

Step 5: With your group, write a definition of “poetry.” Write your group’s definition below. **7 minutes**

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**Part 2:** Get the “What, Then, *IS* Poetry?” textbook excerpt from the teacher or front table.

Step 1: Read page 8 and the first paragraph on page 9. First discuss these questions with your group, then record your consensus below.

1. Which person’s definition most closely matches the definition of your group?
2. Which definition or definition do you think is most accurate, and why?
3. Are there any definitions that you disagree with? Are there any that seem useless? Explain.
4. Which definitions do you *like* the best? Why?
5. (Individual response) Does the ambiguity and mystery of the nature of poetry frustrate or intrigue you?