

Ekphrastic Poetry Presentations

You and your group will make a presentation about an ekphrastic poem. You are required to prepare ahead of time and must MAKE 28 COPIES OF THE POEM BEFORE YOUR PRESENTATION TO DISTRIBUTE IN CLASS.

Ekphrastic Poetry Presentations

You and your group will teach an ekphrastic poem to our class by presenting thoughtful analysis of both the painting and the text of the poem.

1. Visit the following website as a group to select your poem and corresponding painting:

<http://mseffie.com/assignments/paintings%26poems/titlepage.html>

If another group has already claimed your choice of poem, you'll need to pick an alternative.

2. On your own (for homework):

- Print copies of the painting and the poem. Use OPTIC and TPCASTT to annotate each.
- Visit general history websites to conduct some basic research into the time period in which the poem was written or the time period captured and described in the poem.
 - **The History Channel** <http://www.history.com/topics>
 - **BBC History** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/o/>
- Add to your notes and annotations:
 - What important events, concerns, or values of the poem's time period seem relevant to an understanding of the text? If the poem responds to a specific historical occasion, what particular event, experience, or issue does the poem illustrate and speak to?
 - How does the poet reflect on a painting from the past to comment on issues, concerns, or values of the present?

3. As a group, decide who will be responsible for presenting:

- Analysis of key **parts** of the painting: What are the important details in the painting, and how do they relate to one another?
- Analysis of the painting's major **themes**: How does the artist use the details and images in the painting to convey meaning?
- Analysis of key **parts** of the poem: Where does the poet make the images in the painting visible to the reader? What kind of language does the poet use to describe the action of the painting? How do these details contribute to the tone of the poem? Where are the important shifts in topic, voice, and tone?
- Analysis of the poem's major **themes**: How does the poet manipulate language to make meaning? How does he use the details in the painting to reflect on present-day concerns?

Your grade for this assignment will be based on the following, and will be a group grade:

Productive collaboration: 5 pts. (Writing and Discussion)

Thoroughness of analysis: 5 pts. (Reading Comprehension and Completion)

Clear communication: 5 pts. (Writing and Discussion)