

Name _____

Prep Work Packet: Poets of North America
Alice Munro, Alice Walker and Octavio Paz

Complete the map of North America before you begin investigating the three poets.



Part II: Poets

Complete each poet's section by researching both their biography, as well as reading and interpreting their poem.



Canada: Alice Munro

Use the biography.com link below to research **Alice Munro's life and work as a poet**. Write a brief summary of the poet.

Link: <http://www.biography.com/search>

Read "Found Poem" by Alice Munro and write a brief synopsis/ annotation of each line/stanza to the right of the poem in the margins. You may also highlight or mark the poem as you read.

Found Poem

That Is What Happens

You put it away
for a little while,
and now and again
you look in the closet,
for something else
and you remember
and you think, *soon*.

Then it becomes
something that is just
there, in the closet,
and other things
get crowded in front
of it and on top of it
and finally you don't
think about it at all.

The thing that was your
bright treasure. You don't
think about it. A loss

you could not contemplate
at one time, and now it
becomes something
you can barely remember.

That is what happens.

What type of mood or emotional feeling does this poem evoke? Use one line from the poem to prove your point and explain how it evokes the mood you chose.

What else could Munro be describing, other than a found poem, that is forgotten or lost? Explain



United States: Alice Walker

Use the biography.com link below to research **Walker's life and work as a poet**. Write a brief summary of the poet based on your research.

Link: <http://www.biography.com/search>

Read "Without Commercials" and write a brief synopsis/ annotation of each line/stanza to the right of the poem in the margins. You may also highlight or mark the poem as you read.

Without Commercials

Listen,
stop tanning yourself

and talking about
fishbelly
white.
The color white
is not bad at all.
There are white mornings
that bring us days.
Or, if you must,
tan only because
it makes you happy
to be brown,
to be able to see
for a summer
the whole world's
darker
face
reflected
in your own.

Stop unfolding
your eyes.
Your eyes are
beautiful.
Sometimes
seeing you in the street
the folds zany
and unexpected
I want to kiss
them
and usually
it is only
old
gorgeous
black people's eyes
I want
to kiss.

Stop trimming
your nose.
When you
diminish
your nose
your songs

become little
tinny, muted
and snub.
Better you should
have a nose
impertinent
as a flower,
sensitive
as a root;
wise, elegant,
serious and deep.
A nose that
sniffs
the essence
of Earth. And knows
the message
of every
leaf.

Stop bleaching
your skin
and talking
about
so much black
is not beautiful.
The color black
is not bad
at all.
There are black nights
that rock
us
in dreams.
Or, if you must,
bleach only
because it pleases you
to be brown,
to be able to see
for as long
as you can bear it
the whole world's
lighter face
reflected
in your own.

As for me,
I have learned
to worship
the sun
again.
To affirm
the adventures
of hair.

For we are all
splendid
descendents
of Wilderness,
Eden:
needing only
to see
each other
without
commercials
to believe.

Copied skillfully
as Adam.

Original

as Eve.

Who are the ethnic groups Walker names in the poem?

Why do you think Walker titles her poem "Without Commercials"?

Find a line from the poem that you like and write it on the line below.

Explain why you chose this line. Think about connections you can make between rhythm, figurative language and imagery.



Mexico: Octavio Paz

Use the biography.com link below to research **Paz's life and work as a poet**. Write a brief summary of the poet based on your research.

Link: <http://www.biography.com/search>

Read "Between What I See and What I Say" and write a brief synopsis/ annotation of each line/stanza to the right of the poem in the margins. You may also highlight or mark the poem as you read.

Between What I See and What I Say

Between what I see and what I say,
between what I say and what I keep silent,
between what I keep silent and what I dream,
between what I dream and what I forget: poetry.

It slips between yes and no,
says what I keep silent,
keeps silent what I say,
dreams what I forget.

It is not speech: it is an act.
It is an act of speech.
Poetry speaks and listens:
it is real, And as soon as I say
it is real,

it vanishes.
Is it then more real?
Tangible idea,
intangible word:
poetry comes and goes
between what is and what is not.
It weaves and unweaves reflections.

Poetry scatters eyes on a page,
scatters words on our eyes.
Eyes speak,
words look,
looks think.
To hear thoughts,
see what we say,
touch the body of an idea.
Eyes close,
the words open.

What do you think Paz means by the phrase “between what I see and what I say”?

Choose one line from the poem, write it on the line and then draw a picture that represents the line in the box below.

Line: _____



Give an example of when you have viewed or experienced something strange, out of the ordinary or different from your life. After you write down the example, explain how you reacted to the strange situation. Did you speak? Why or why not?
