

ENG 1D – POETRY ASSIGNMENT

TASK:

1. Look over the back of this sheet and complete a poem to be submitted for the described competition. You should come up with several different poems (types, lengths, messages, etc). Choose one that you like the best, and that you think best demonstrates your learning in this unit.
2. Submit your chosen poem to me, and include the following:
 - Poem
 - Labelling and explanation of type of poem, any rhyme scheme, any poetic devices, etc.
 - A proper and complete prose paragraph discussing the meaning of your poem and the message you are trying to convey with your poem.
 - Due: Beginning of class, April 13th.
3. Submit your poem to the competition before April 27th, according to the guidelines set forth on the back of this sheet. The poem you submit should not be labelled, nor have an explanation. You may submit more than one poem to the competition if you wish.

From the Competition website @ <https://thelifeofwords.uwaterloo.ca/poetry-competition-2018/>

Now in its third year, *The Life of Words* hosts an annual poetry competition, open to all high school students in Ontario. Last year's theme was "write a poem about language." This year we're narrowing things down a bit (but not too much), to "write a poem about the meaning of a word."

Here's a great example of a poem by Ian Duhig about the meanings of words, which you can also hear Duhig reading here: <https://www.poetryarchive.org/poem/irish>

From the Irish
by Ian Duhig

According to Dinneen, a Gael unsurpassed
in lexicographical enterprise, the Irish
for moon means "the white circle in a slice
of half-boiled potato or turnip." A star
is the mark on the forehead of a beast
and the sun is the bottom of a lake, or well.

Well, if I say to you your face
is like a slice of half-boiled turnip,
your hair is the colour of a lake's bottom
and at the centre of your eyes
is the mark of the beast, it is because
I want to love you properly, according to Dinneen.

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APRIL IS POETRY MONTH!

POETRY COMPETITION

2018 COMPETITION THEME

Write a poem about some aspect or aspects of the

meaning of a word

THE
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TIPS TO GET YOU GOING

- Aspects of “meaning” include definition, connotation, and impression. What does a word “mean,” beyond its dictionary definition?
- Think past what a word means to *just* you — what has it meant to others, or what *could* it mean?
- If you know another language than English, try to convey the true meaning of a favorite word in that language.
- Write about a word with a double (or multiple...) meaning.
- Research how a word came into English and the changes in its meaning from the donor language to ours.
- Research what a word has meant at different times in the development of the language, and write a poem about it.
- Make up a new word and write a poem to define its meaning.
- Does the sound of a word contribute to its meaning? Explore.

RESOURCES

- The *Oxford English Dictionary*.
- Regional, dialect, and foreign-language dictionaries.
- Etymological dictionaries, like www.etymonline.com.
- Poetry collections and anthologies.

PRIZES

- Winner: \$100 gift-card to spend at Indigo.ca, plus:
- Runner(s) up: Inscribed prize copy of a poetry anthology, and a 1-year subscription to *The New Quarterly* for you and your school library, plus:
- Honorable mentions: Publication of your poem in *The Life of Words Anthology 2018*.

HOW TO ENTER

- Email your poem* by 27 April 2018 to thelifeofwords@sju.ca
- To be eligible, include in your email: your full name, school, and grade.
- All participants must be students at an Ontario high school to be eligible.
- For information and news, and to download a .pdf of this flyer, visit thelifeofwords.uwaterloo.ca/competition-2018/
- Follow us on twitter @thelifeofwords

*Note: by submitting a poem you agree to its publication, online or in print, under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>). Submission does not guarantee publication. No correspondence will be entered into. Questions regarding this contest may be directed to Professor David-Antoine Williams (St. Jerome's University).



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