

Name _____

Hr. _____

Teacher: Wallenberg (rev. 2005)

POETRY PACKET

• poetry is one of the three major types, or genres of literature,
the others being prose and drama.

☺ poetry is language which reflects imagination, emotion, and thinking in verse form . . .

POETRY

☀ POETRY DEFIES SIMPLE DEFINITION BECAUSE THERE IS NO SINGLE CHARACTERISTIC THAT IS FOUND IN ALL POEMS AND NOT FOUND IN ALL POEMS. IN OTHER WORDS, POEMS ARE WHAT PHILOSOPHERS OF LANGUAGE CALL AN "ILL-DEFINED SET."

*Poetry begins in delight and ends in wisdom. --Robert Frost

♥ Poetry has been traditionally thought to be about emotions, and indeed, it is. --Estess & Mc Cann

What I like in a good author isn't what he says, but what he whispers. --Logan Pearsall Smith

♪ The essentials of **poetry** are rhythm, dance, and the human voice. --Earle Birney

▣ Poetry is boned with ideas, nerved and blooded with emotions, all held together by the delicate, tough skin of words. --Paul Engle

◇ Poetry is the opening and closing of a door, leaving those who look through to guess what is seen during a moment. --Carl Sandburg

poetry

♥ The desire to write grows with writing. --Erasmus

🍏 What we learn with pleasure, we never forget. --Alfred Mercier.

☺ When words are scarce, they are seldom spent in vain. --Shakespeare

☀ A book must be an axe for the frozen sea inside of us. --Franz Kafka

from AN ESSAY ON CRITICISM

by Alexander Pope (1711)

A

- 1 'Tis with our judgments as our watches; none
- 2 go just alike, yet each believes his own.
- 3 Of all the causes which conspire to blind
- 4 Man's erring judgment, and misguide the mind,
- 5 What the weak head with strongest bias rules,
- 6 Is pride, the never-failing vice of fools.
- 7 'Tis not a lip, or eye, we beauty call,
- 8 But the joint force and full result of all.
- 9 Words are like leaves; and where they most abound,
- 10 Much fruit of sense beneath is rarely found.
- 11 A little learning is a dangerous thing;
- 12 Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring.
- 13 There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
- 14 And drinking largely sobers us again.
- 15 We think our fathers fools, so wise we grow;
- 16 Our wiser sons, no doubt, will think us so.
- 17 Good nature and good sense must ever join;
- 18 To err is human, to forgive divine.

B

TO THE VIRGINS,
TO MAKE MUCH OF TIME

by Robert Herrick (1633)

- 1 Gather ye rosebuds while ye may.
Old time is still a-flying;
And this same flower that smiles today
Tomorrow will be dying.
- 5 The glorious lamp of heaven, the sun,
The higher he's a getting
The sooner will his race be run,
And nearer he's to setting.
- 10 That age was best that is the first,
When youth and blood are warmer;
But being spent, the worse, and worst
Times still succeed the former.
- 14 Then be not coy, but use your time,
And, while ye may, go marry;
For having lost but once your prime,
You may forever tarry.

C

See pp 1102-1103
in LBT for the
picture that goes
with this poem.

Musée des Beaux Arts'

W. H. Auden

- 1 About suffering they were never wrong.
The Old Masters: how well they understood
its human position: how it takes place
While someone else is eating or opening a window or just
walking dully along:
- 5 How, when the aged are reverently, passionately waiting
For the miraculous birth, there always must be
Children who did not specially want it to happen, skating
On a pond at the edge of the wood:
They never forgot
- 10 That even the dreadful martyrdom must run its course
Anyhow in a corner, some untidy spot
Where the dogs go on with their doggy life and the
torturer's horse
Scratches its innocent behind on a tree.
- In Brueghel's *Icarus*,² for instance: how everything turns
away
- 15 Quite leisurely from the disaster: the ploughman may
Have heard the splash, the forsaken cry,
But for him it was not an important failure: the sun shone
As it had to on the white legs disappearing into the green
Water: and the expensive delicate ship that must have seen
20 Something amazing, a boy falling out of the sky,
Had somewhere to get to and sailed calmly on.

1. Musée des Beaux Arts: The Museum of Fine Arts in Brussels, Belgium.
2. Brueghel's (brū' gals) *Icarus* (ik' ə ras): *The Fall of Icarus*, a painting by Flemish painter Pieter Brueghel (1522?-1569).