English 10-1 **Poetry Unit**

Focus: Symbolism

Symbol: A symbol is something that stands for or represents something else.

Symbolism: in literature, is the "figurative" means of developing ideas/themes through the use of symbols. When authors use symbols, they are saying one thing and meaning one thing more. Characters, objects, events, and settings can all be symbolic.

Conventional Symbol (holds meaning for an entire culture or group)

Dove = peace	flag = patriotism
island = isolation	expensive car = wealth or status
lion= courage	the cross= Christianity
rose = beauty	swastika = Fascism

Private Symbol (holds meaning only within the context of the literature)
A monogram or a private kind of diagram (if you draw a butterfly instead of your name) would be a private symbol that only you and a select group of others understand.

The Sick Rose by William Blake

O Rose, thou art sick!
The invisible worm,
That flies in the night,
In the howling storm,
Has found out thy bed
Of crimson joy;
And his dark secret love
Does thy life destroy.

1. After reading the poem list words of connotation to the words "rose" and "worm". Focus on poem only.
2. What is the literal meaning of the poem? Is it meaningful?
3. What do you think the poem is really about? What is the symbolism?

The Clod and the Pebble by W. Blake

"Love seeketh not itself to please,
Nor for itself hath any care
But for another gives its ease
And builds a Heaven in Hell's despair."

So sung a little Clod of Clay,
Trodden with the cattle's feet,
But a Pebble of the brook
Warbled out these metres meet:

"Love seeketh only Self to please,
To bind another to its delight,
Joys in another's loss of ease,
And builds a Hell in Heaven's despite."

1. What types of people are symbolized by the Clod and the Pebble?
2. Why should the pebble be more cheerful than the clod?
3. How is a clod similar to love whereas a pebble is not?

Connecting Symbolism to Poetry:

Choose one of the following topics to develop an **original** symbol for. (In other words, you can't use a dove for peace for example). Write a poem with significant use of the symbol. **It may rhyme or it may be free verse, but it needs to be a minimum of 12 lines long**. If you choose to rhyme your poem, PLEASE make sure that you do not destroy your poetry by using "cheesy" rhymes. Aside from using a symbol, you also need to use at least **four other different figures of speech**, and be aware of connotation / denotation. **Make sure your poem has a theme** (a purpose, a focus) throughout your entire poem. In other words, you must have something significant to say about the emotion and how it impacts human behaviour.

Greed	Jealousy
Compassion	Freedom
Restraint	Anger
Forgiveness	Solitude
Deceit	Peace

Self-Evaluation of Symbol Poem

In order to analyze the work of other poets, you must be able to analyze your own. To that end, you will write a **thoughtful and informative written response in which you explain what your reasoning was** for the choices you made in your poetry. Of course you will need to justify the choice of symbol and explain why it is a powerful choice. As well, you will also be required to identify the other poetic techniques you used, and articulate what effect you were trying for by using them. In other words, why did you use the other techniques? Not to be forgotten is a discussion of the significance of your title and the theme which should permeate your poetry

CAUTION: The last thing you should think of saying is that "the technique makes the poem's meaning better" or "it enhances the meaning". These sentences mean nothing - they are the safety net for those who don't really know what the poem is about.

If by doing this self-evaluation and reflection you find your poetry lacks power, you must revise it or scrap it and start again.

Remember - poetry writing is about making specific and powerful word **choices** to convey your feelings and ideas exactly.

Rhyme:

There are several different kinds of rhyme. Any of these are ok to use in your poem.

Masucline Rhyme: This is where one syllable words rhyme with other one syllable words. ie cat and mat.

Feminine Rhyme: This is where multi syllable words rhyme with other multi syllable words. ie kitten and mitten

Perfect Rhyme: This is where the middle and end sounds of the words match exactly: ie phone and bone

Slant Rhyme(also called imperfect): This is where the middle and end sounds of words are similar, but do not match exactly. ie: guitar and where

End Rhyme: This is where the words at the end of lines rhyme.

ie '*Tis some visitor,' I muttered, `tapping at my chamber **door**, Only this, and nothing **more.***'

Internal Rhyme: This is wehre a word in the middle of a line rhymes with a word at the end of the same line.

ie *Once upon a midnight **dreary,** while I pondered weak and **weary,***

English 10-1 Symbol Poem Rubric

Student: _____

Name of Poem: _____ **/30**

Poem: **/15**

Symbol connects to emotion (Appropriate) /3

3. Unique object shares characteristic with emotion
2. Conventional object shares characteristic with emotion
1. Inadequate object shares characteristic with emotion

Use of details (Developed) /3

3. Precise attention to details (word choices) enhance the message
2. Some attention to details (word choices) enhance the message
1. Lack of details weaken the message and/or is confusing to reader

Poetic Techniques /3

3. A variety is used to develop power of the theme
2. Some techniques are used, still has purpose
1. Little use of techniques or use lacks purpose (unclear)

Theme /3

3. Obvious, thoughtful, clear and has meaning
2. Appropriate and clear meaning
1. Inappropriate and unclear meaning

Conventions /3

3. Thoughtful use of punctuation & structure. No errors.
2. Correct but general. Minor errors - doesn't detract from meaning
1. Many errors that meaning becomes lost.

Paragraph (x 5) **/15**

3. Thorough discussion and specific detail of the choices clarify the intent of the writer. Supports a clear and insightful connection of the theme to the symbol. Poetic techniques are explained to help comprehend the message of the poem.

2. General discussion of poem details to clarify intent of the writer. Demonstrates a basic understanding of the poetic techniques to explain message of the poem. Some general connections are made to the theme and symbol.

1. Inadequate discussion of poem details. Does not fully understand the assignment. No attempt to clarify meaning of poem, connection to symbol or use of poetic techniques. Response does not help reader understand the intent of poem and its structure. Does not address the assignment or is confusing.