

Name: _____

Simko: Honors 10

Found Poetry: *The Great Gatsby*

Poems are made out of words: *Which* words? *What* words? *Where* do you find these words?

Broadly speaking, all poetry is "found" somewhere in something that inspires a writer to want to develop his or her thoughts in verse. "Found poetry" uses someone else's language, images, cadences, and, of course, observations about life. It's quite possible to find the basis of poetry in certain newspaper articles and headlines and even in drier, nonfiction texts.

The Great Gatsby provides a wealth of material for "Found Poetry"; in fact, Fitzgerald has been quoted saying he feels his words are better considered poetry than they are prose.

Over break, you are going to create a "found poem" using *The Great Gatsby* as your muse. Here are the steps/requirements you should follow:

- Choose a thematic idea, symbol, or character on which/whom you'd like to focus your attention:
 - materialism, the death of the American Dream, the green light, marriage, love, any color, the eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleberg, any character
- Find words/a passage/passages about this topic that you think are particularly important/moving/descriptive/poetic—what I'd do is **LOOK BACK THROUGH YOUR ANNOTATIONS** to find moments you found particularly interesting while reading.
- The next step is to arrange the words and phrases into **lines** (all poetry is made-up of lines)—these lines do NOT have to rhyme (in fact, it might be near impossible to make them do so)
- At the end of each line, put the PAGE NUMBER from which it was found
- Finally, add a creative title.
- Your "found poem" should be hand-written *nicely* on computer paper, scrapbook paper, construction paper...make it look presentable!
- Your Found Poem must be **AT LEAST 15 lines long**. (The example is only 13 lines—I'd lose points.)

Here's an example from Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*:

"Hello, Mr. Arthur"

Standing inside the gate (p. 54)
Don't make a sound (p. 52)
A little teeny light way off somewhere (p.53)
A secret (p.40)
Head shaking, quelling of nausea (p. 41)
Trembling as I thawed (p. 38)
G-O-D (p.52)
Best to keep my mouth shut (p. 39)
The shadow stopped (p. 53)
Desolate with the barking of distant dogs (p. 57)
Wordlessly (p. 57)
Trembling (p. 57)
We knew Boo was there. (p. 243)

This poem is worth 30 points and is due on Tuesday, 12/2—we will share them in class!