



## Questions for Classroom Discussion

### **The Poetry Contest**

- **Why is poetry important, and why should students practice writing poetry?**
  - ⇒ Consider how poetry is used to express emotions that all humans have, including happiness, passion, sadness, excitement, gratefulness, fear, etc.
  - ⇒ Consider how an understanding of poetry—including figurative language, meter, rhyming, format, etc.—can help a student develop an overall mastery of language, and can even improve performance in other subject areas
  - ⇒ Consider how writing poetry can be a great outlet for your emotions, and it can boost creativity and self-confidence, and how this can have huge benefits on students
  
- **How can a poetry contest help students gain an appreciation for poetry?**
  - ⇒ Consider how friendly competition can increase student engagement and encourage students to do their best
  - ⇒ Consider how a contest can garner school-wide excitement, which will place a focus on poetry as an important genre and give teachers an opportunity to talk about it
  - ⇒ Consider how a contest will recognize the best poems that can be shared with the entire school so that other students can appreciate quality work
  
- **What are specific rules and judging criteria that a poetry contest should have to make it successful?**
  - ⇒ Consider that a contest must be fair, organized, and clear for it to achieve the desired results
  - ⇒ Consider that a list of “judging criteria” should be created so that students know what is expected of them, and that the criteria should succeed in selecting the “best” poem
  - ⇒ Consider that the final goal is to gain an appreciation for poetry, which is a very creative outlet... therefore, the judging criteria should not be so rigid or stifling that it takes away from the creative process