

Presentation (handout c)

You will be teaching the class about your poet and a poem that she or he wrote. By the end of your presentation the class should be familiar with the poet's name, what they wrote, distinctive characteristics of their poetry, why they're important or memorable, and have a clear understanding of one of that poet's poems. (10 minutes)

To achieve this, your presentation will be in the following order:

Introduction (draw us in, make us interested):

1. Poet's name, most basic biographical information. (1-2 slides.)

Body (the bulk of your information)

2. Who were they and what were they about? (3-4 slides)
3. Why are they important? What did they achieve? (3-4 slides)
4. Major works and characteristics of poetry (give examples; include famous quotes and lines) (3-4 slides)

Close Examination

5. Display a powerpoint slide of the poem and read it outloud to the class. (Read clearly, loudly, and slowly. See tips for reciting a poem.)
6. Explain the poem to the class and identify its key lines and images (Have those lines and sections highlighted in a different color or font so they are easy to see.)
7. Show video

Conclusion (what should we remember about your poet and his or her work?)

9. Additional lines, actions, images which will leave the audience with a lasting impression as well as a work's cited page of your sources. (3 slides and final should be an iconic image and key quote.)

Tips and Suggestions:

1. Know what it is your peers are listening for. (Look at poet notes from handout g so you know what your peers need to complete for your presentation)
2. Make your presentation engaging and interesting. (Talk to us as if you know, understand, and care about your subject.)
3. Rehearse, Rehearse, Rehearse. This is to be polished. Speak clearly, project your voices, know what you are supposed to be doing and when during the presentation. Consider how things will look and appear to the audience. Pay attention to how much space you have at the front and where people will sit or stand when they aren't speaking. Pay attention to small details even if it feels nit-picky.

HOW TO READ A POEM OUTLOUD

1. Read the poem slowly. Most adolescents speak rapidly, and a nervous reader will tend to do the same in order to get the reading over with. Reading a poem slowly is the best way to ensure that the poem will be read clearly and understood by its listeners. Learning to read a poem slowly will not just make the poem easier to hear; it will underscore the importance in poetry of each and every word. A poem cannot be read too slowly, and a good way for a reader to set an easy pace is to pause for a few seconds between the title and the poem's first line.

2. Read in a normal, relaxed tone of voice. It is not necessary to give any of these poems a dramatic reading as if from a stage. The poems selected are mostly written in a natural, colloquial style and should be read that way. Let the words of the poem do the work. Just speak clearly and slowly.

3. Obviously, poems come in lines, but pausing at the end of every line will create a choppy effect and interrupt the flow of the poem's sense. Readers should pause only where there is punctuation, just as you would when reading prose, only more slowly.

4. Use a dictionary to look up unfamiliar words and hard-to-pronounce words. To read with conviction, a reader needs to know at least the dictionary sense of every word. In some cases, a reader might want to write out a word phonetically as a reminder of how it should sound. It should be emphasized that learning to read a poem out loud is a way of coming to a full understanding of that poem, perhaps a better way than writing a paper on the subject.