Poetry Unit Projects
“When people write poems they are putting themselves on the line—to be criticized or praised. It is really risky. For me to write a decent poem, I must release all inhibitions and then go with it.” – Adrienne Rich

**At the end of the unit, you will:

1. Be able to “mark-up” a poem, analyzing it in order to develop an “interpretative statement.”** We will practice this as a full group, with partners, and twice individually, before you will be asked to complete this process on your own as an in-class summative grade. This in-class 25 point summative will be on *Wednesday, May 14th.*

**2. Write numerous poems throughout the next few weeks, including 2 poems that you will revise and polish into poetry perfection.** You will write 10+ poems throughout this unit, but you only are required to share two with me. I will look at those rough drafts (and so will your writing group) to give you feedback. At the end of the unit, you will turn in the 2 poems: drafts and a final copy for a summative grade. *Due Friday, May 16th*. Part of this grade will also require you to stand and share one of your poems with the class during our Coffee Shop Reading Celebration on that Friday. 50 point summative.

**3.**  **Create a 3-D Object poem.** Using either one of your two “polished” poems or another original piece, you will draw, scratch, paint, paste, collage, etc. your entire poem onto an object that represents the poem’s deeper meaning. This will be a 75 point formative grade based largely on creativity and presentation. *Due Thursday, May 15th.* Bad example: Writing a poem about basketball on a basketball.
 Bad example: Scotch-taping a poem about the zoo, in one giant block on to the back of a stuffed zebra.
 Good example: Writing a poem about past, unpleasant memories onto a VCR tape with the film torn out, artfully displayed on a large piece of slightly burned cardboard.

**4) Write a reflection letter about your poetry experience.** Explain why you chose to draft and polish *those* two poems. What about those poems really spoke to you as the author? Why did you like them more than others? What were you trying to accomplish with each poem? What was a struggle you encountered while writing and/or revising your poem? Which poem is your favorite? Why? Also write about your general feelings of poetry. Has your opinion changed? Have you learned new writing techniques? Perspectives? Why did you choose that particular object for your 3D poem? Explain your idea and the connections you wanted the viewer/reader to make. This needs to be at least ONE PAGE TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED and be reflective of your thinking behind your original poetry and your 3D object project. Knowing the how and why of what you do and the reason you think the way you do is perhaps one of the strongest tools you can develop as a learner. (Part of #2’s grade- 10 summative points.) *Due Friday, May 16th* with your original poetry.