**Thinking and Discussion Final –**

**DUE JUNE 18, 2018**

**A. Poetry Recitation B. Essay**

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| Date: | Class | Homework |
| June 5, 2018 | **Choose one of the poems presented in class.** | **Use the information in the poem packet to help you memorize the poem by next class.** |
| June 11,  2018 | **Poetry Workshop:**  **Meet with Jennifer for expression and gestures advice.** | **Practice with the changes.** |
| June 12, 2018 | **Write a short essay describing the poem:**  **Include information about the author, the themes, the important lines, and why you chose this poem to recite.** | **Continue practicing.**  **Type your essay and print for next class.** |
| June 18, 2018 | **FINAL PERFORMANCE: Using voice inflection, eye contact, good posture, gestures, and excellently memorized poem, recite your poem for the class. Be prepared to also read your short essay to the class, after you perform your poem. (We will want to understand the poem better after you perform it.)** |  |
| June 19,  June 22  2018 | **Evaluation Meetings** | **Sign up online for an evaluation meeting with Jennifer. If you do not come to a meeting, please understand that you will have 2 absences. Thank you. ☺** |

**How to memorize a Poem**

in a few simple steps (really)

1. Read through the poem carefully and slowly and out loud. It's okay if you don't get it all right away. Just read it, letting the language flow out of your mouth.
2. Copy the poem over in your own handwriting, writing on every other line. Try to keep the lines and stanzas on your paper the same as in the original poem.
3. Read the poem out loud again.
4. Using an index card or a piece of paper, cover up all of the poem except the first line. Say that line over to yourself three times. Now, gaze off into space for a moment and try to say the line from memory.
5. Repeat this with the rest of the lines in the stanza, saying the lines you have already worked on, too. If the poem is not divided into stanzas, divide it yourself into groups of three or four lines.
6. Once you have one stanza down, go to the next one, again working line by line.
7. Put those two stanzas together, and then move on. Repeat this until you reach the end of the poem.
8. You will think you have it down pat, and you will be wrong. It will take practice to move this information from your short-term memory to your long-term memory. To practice, follow the ideas below:
   * write the first letter of each word on an index card and practice with the card, using the letters to prompt you
   * record yourself reading the poem and listen to it (if you can load it on an iPod or MP3 player, that is awesome practice)
   * say the poem out loud when you are walking by yourself
   * recite to your parents (serious brownie points)
   * say it while you are in the shower, drying your hair, or exercising (repetitive motion like a foot striking the track will help get the pattern of the poem in your mind)
   * write it out over and over
   * think it to yourself when you are bored in class

Using these simple steps and techniques, you will be able to learn the poem without too much difficulty. You already know the lyrics to about a bazillion songs. All songs are is poetry. You can do it. Take the time to practice it. Really try to learn it.