**Poetry Discussion**

Instructions:

* Read and thoroughly annotate your poem.
* Come to class prepared with written responses to the questions below. Do this work individually. Your written responses should show me that you put some thought into your reading, but are primarily for your use during the discussion.
* On the day your poem is due, you will meet with a group to discuss your response to it. Definitely address the ideas on your sheet, but don’t limit yourself only to those ideas. This should be a substantial discussion of the poem.

**Questions to respond to after reading and annotating the poem:**

1. Briefly paraphrase the poem and state its subject.
2. Who is the speaker? What is the speaker’s tone—his or her attitude towards the subject? How does the author create this tone?
3. List any structural elements you notice—rhyme patterns, fixed stanza forms, etc. Where do you notice structure enhancing the ideas of the poem, and how does the structure enhance the ideas?
4. What imagery, allusions, or literary devices stand out to you? How do these enhance the ideas of the poem?
5. What is the “meaning of the work as a whole”? (This is a phrase often used on AP tests—think of this as theme or underlying ideas.) If you aren’t certain that you can articulate the meaning of the work as a whole, say so.
6. If you are confident that you understand the meaning of the work as a whole, describe the process you went through to understand that meaning. (Were there allusions you noticed? Lines you returned to? A particular focus, like tone or speaker, that you picked? Connections that you made within the poem?)
7. If you are less than confident that you understand the meaning of the work as whole—which is totally fine!—what questions do you have about the poem? What areas continue to be problematic for you?
8. What is the most difficult part of the poem to understand? Why is it so difficult? How have you addressed that difficulty?
9. What are the most important questions a reader needs to answer to understand this poem?