

POETRY IS...

ATTENTIVENESS

- POETS PAY ATTENTION TO EVERYTHING FROM SPELLING TO THE WAY THE WORDS SOUND AND WHAT THEY MEAN.
- POETS THINK ABOUT PUNCTUATION AND THE SPACES BETWEEN AND AROUND WORDS.

CONCENTRATION

- POETRY HAS MEANING, MUSIC, AND EMOTIONS PER WORD, PER SYLLABLE, AND PER LETTER THAN ANY OTHER KINDS OF WRITING.
- POETS FIND WAYS OF UNDERSTANDING AND EMOTION WHILE USING CAREFULLY SELECTED COMBINATION OF WORDS.

EXPERIMENT

- POETS TRY TO USE LANGUAGE IN AS MANY NEW, SURPRISING, AND CHALLENGING WAYS AS THEY CAN.

ORIGINALITY

- POETRY SAYS OR DOES SOMETHING NEW; IT MAKES SOMETHING NEW HAPPEN IN THE READER'S MIND.
- THE NEW THING CAN BE A TOTALLY ORIGINAL OBSERVATION ABOUT LIFE OR A DIFFERENT WAY OF SAYING SOMETHING MANY OTHER PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY THOUGHT OR SAID.

FORM

- POETRY IS OFTEN ABOUT FORM—THE SHAPE OR STRUCTURE A PARTICULAR GROUP OF WORDS TAKE
- THE WORD FORM ALSO REFER TO THE WAY A POEM IS WRITTEN (ITS MODE).
- A POEM CAN BE WRITTEN IN THE FORM OF A PRAYER, A LETTER, A LAUNDRY LIST.
- ALL FORMS CARRY THEIR OWN WORLDS OF MEANING.

PEOPLE WRITE POETRY TO:

- TELL STORIES OF THEIR COMMUNITIES
- RECORD HISTORY
- COMMEMORATE A MOMENT OF PERSONAL HISTORY
- TAKE A SNAPSHOT OF EXPERIENCE
- EMBODY THEIR FEELINGS
- CREATE A STATE OF FEELING
- EXPLORE LANGUAGE
- CREATE AN INTENSE EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE
- DRAW ATTENTION THAT IS TRUE

AUTUMN BEGINS IN MARTIN'S FERRY, OHIO
JAMES WRIGHT

IN THE SHREVE HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM,
I THINK OF POLACKS NURSING LONG BEERS IN TILTONSVILLE,
AND GRAY FACES OF NEGROES IN THE BLAST FURNACE AT BENWOOD,
AND THE RUPTURED NIGHT WATCHMAN OF WHEELING STEEL,
DREAMING OF HEROES.

ALL THE PROUD FATHERS ARE ASHAMED TO GO HOME.
THEIR WOMEN CLUCK LIKE STARVED PULLETS,
DYING FOR LOVE.

THEREFORE,
THEIR SONS GROW SUICIDALLY BEAUTIFUL
AT THE BEGINNING OF OCTOBER,
AND GALLOP TERRIBLY AGAINST EACH OTHER'S BODIES.

WORK CITED

- TIMPANE, JOHN AND MAUREEN WATTS. *POETRY FOR DUMMIES*. NEW YORK: WILEY
- PUBLISHING, 2001. PRINT.