Poem Responses Assignment

20 minutes

Reading poetry requires close reading. To practice skills and strategies of close reading, each week we will collectively read and respond to a specific poem. Rather than simply summarizing, paraphrasing or analyzing, we will respond in different ways. Over the course of the semester, we will complete two responses of each of the following types:

A. A diagram or drawing inspired by the poem or something in the poem with a brief explanation of how it helps you understand the poem

B. A list of words, symbols, or things you notice in the poem and a brief explanation of why what you’ve noticed might be important

C. Two paragraphs explaining how the poem or something in the poem relates to something we have been discussing in class

D. Three separate attempts at paraphrasing a passage from the poem or the poem as a whole

E. A continuation of the poem, a prelude to the poem or a poem of your own that responds to the poem. Minimum of 10 lines.

ADVICE: The best reflections will be creative and exploratory. They will raise more questions than they answer and will focus on specific elements of a given text.