

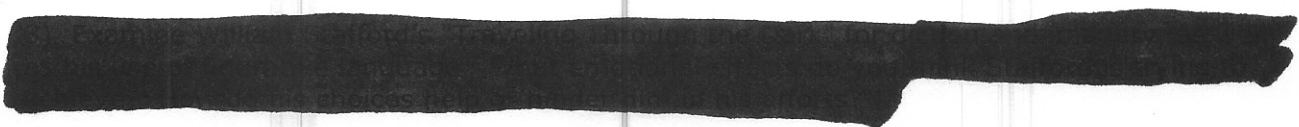
## Essay 2 Topics and Instructions

- **Formatting requirements:** Use standard MLA document formatting requirements. Google "OWL Purdue MLA documentation style" and click on the first link for a sample and detailed information.
- **Length:** 500 to 1,000 words, not including the Works Cited page
- **Due Date:** See your syllabus.
- **Submission Directives:** Submit your essay as an attachment to the Assignment drop box in the designated Learning Unit. (See your syllabus and the Learning Units).
- **Assignment Objectives:** Your goal is to apply a critical strategy to a work and to develop and support a specific thesis. Your essay should be unified, developed, organized, and coherent, and should use sophisticated sentence style while meeting the demands of standard English. I've given you specific topics to get you started thinking, along with plenty of handouts to help guide you.
- **Rubric:** Be sure to read the designated rubric carefully so that you have a clear idea of what criteria I will be using as I grade your essay.

**Instructions:** Choose ONE of the topics below on the poems that have been assigned over the last several weeks and write a double-spaced essay (500 to 1,000 words) supporting an interpretation of the poem. Use the sample essays in your *Literature* text, as well as the handouts as guides. You can choose a formalist approach or any of the contextual approaches but be sure to support your thesis with evidence from the poem itself. Also, be sure that you explain *how* that evidence fits your interpretation. You are trying to convince your reader that your way of approaching the poem is a reasonable one.

Here are some possible topics, although you can choose another way of approaching your poem if you'd like, as long as you can make a good case for your claims:

- 1) Examine Theodore Roethke's diction in "My Papa's Waltz." How and why does he use negative and positive connotations in his word choices to describe the young boy's experience?



**ENGL 1102**  
**Poetry Analysis Rubric**

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>*Any paper that does not meet the length requirement will have 10 point taken directly off the top. The length requirement for this paper is a minimum of 750 words.</b></p>	<p>Range: Incoherent or not evident; poorly demonstrated 0-10 Needs Improvement 11-15 Good: Meets criteria 16-18 Exceeds criteria with originality and creativity 19-20</p>
<p><b>Purpose/Introduction/Conclusion (20 pts)</b>          ___ Introduction is engaging with a strategy to grab the reader's attention.          ___ Includes a title, not a label.          ___ Thesis is insightful and relies on analysis rather than casual observation.          ___ Thesis is clear and focused: may be explanatory, interpretative, or evaluative by relies on a careful analysis of how poetic devices are used by the poet.          ___ Conclusion is thoughtful, engaging, and clear—does not just restate thesis—leaves the reader with something to think about</p>	
<p><b>Development/Content (40 pts)</b>          ___ Supports thesis with an analysis of the text.          ___ Support directly relates to thesis statement.          ___ May discuss any combination of poetic devices: word choice, word order, tone, images, figures of speech, symbolism, irony, sounds, and rhythm scheme.          ___ Does not summarize the poem as support for the claim but rather analyzes poetic devices to reveal why the poet may have chosen to use each device and to what end.</p>	
<p><b>Format/Presentation/ Organization (20 pts)</b>          ___ Uses a coherent organizing structure for paragraphs. Paragraphs contain only one main point, are well-developed, averaging two per page, and contain clear topic sentences with focused support.          ___ Avoids plagiarism. All information not common knowledge is properly cited.          ___ Uses MLA format with in-text citations and works cited page.          ___ Quotes and in-text citations do not outweigh the student's writing.          ___ All quotes are introduced and discussed afterward: no "free-floating" quotes.          ___ Paper is neat, presentable, typed, doubled-spaced, 10-12 point font.</p>	
<p><b>Structure/ Grammar/Word Choice/Punctuation/ Spelling (20 pts)</b>          ___ Demonstrates evidence of editing and revision.          ___ Paper is relatively free of errors in usage and mechanics that interfere with coherence and fluency. Refers to text in present tense.          ___ Demonstrates awareness of mature use of language, sense of audience, and word choice.          ___ Uses a variety of sentence patterns and sound sentence structure.</p>	



## "My Papa's Waltz" by Theodore Roethke

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### My Papa's Waltz

BY THEODORE ROETHKE

The whiskey on your breath  
Could make a small boy dizzy;  
But I hung on like death:  
Such waltzing was not easy.

We romped until the pans  
Slid from the kitchen shelf;  
My mother's countenance  
Could not unfrown itself.

The hand that held my wrist  
Was battered on one knuckle;  
At every step you missed  
My right ear scraped a buckle.

You beat time on my head  
With a palm caked hard by dirt,  
Then waltzed me off to bed  
Still clinging to your shirt.

Theodore Roethke, "My Papa's Waltz" from *Collected Poems of Theodore Roethke*. Copyright 1942 by Heast Magazines, Inc. Used by permission of Doubleday, an imprint of the Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House LLC. All rights reserved.

Source: *The Collected Poems of T*

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