

ASSIGNMENTS TO BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO SESSION III

I. Preparation for Reading for Session III

Survey the whole of Session III in course module, especially the Objectives and the Study Guides, including the Helpful Tips on reading poetry.

Reading Assignment for Session III

Class handouts:

- * "Sonnet 29" Shakespeare (and analysis) * use this on
- "This is Just to Say" William Carlos Williams
- "Because I Could Not Stop for Death" Emily Dickinson
- "Miscegenation" Natasha Tretheway US Poet Laureate (and analysis)

3.1
3.2
Read these
write on
these
poems

IV. Writing Assignments for Session III

Choose one of the following for a 2 page paper on any poem(s) of your choice either read in class or on your own: Choose one of the following formats:

1. Focus on theme, expression, reader response, analysis, or a combination of any of these. Many poems are written in times of personal crisis. How could poetry help you deal with a meaningful concern in your life? Explain your thoughts on this, giving examples.
2. Creative Interpretation: If you choose this approach, analyze and evaluate one of the poems you read. Discuss two or more of the formal elements carefully: the form, the diction, the imagery, the rhyme and the rhythm. Is the poet making a great use of metaphor? If so, show us how. Then consider how well the parts work together. Does the rhythm convey some characteristic that advances the meaning of the poem? How do the sounds of the words fit the author's purpose? Be specific and use quotes from the poem to explain your analysis. **Many poems are analyzed on the Shmoop website for in-depth information.**
3. A Reverse View: rather than choosing a work that you enjoyed, select one that you did not. Examine both the poem and yourself and explain why you did not have a positive response. Look at the poem's elements (diction, theme, rhythm, symbol, etc) specifically. It is not enough to say, "I hated it" without a considered discussion. If you dislike specific elements, give examples and explain. If it's an issue with theme, explain. Be specific and use quotes from the poem to explain your analysis.

For all of the choices: Remember, you do not need to summarize the poem. Instead, discuss the elements the poet uses and what they might mean to the reader or how they might "affect" the reader.

Double check MLA sources about how to quote poetry.