

# Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>

1. Read for 20 minutes.

**Reading Response Question: Answer the following question in the space below.**

Did the author use language to create a feeling or picture in your mind? What words did the author use and how did s/he create this picture in your mind?

2. Free Verse Poetry Assignment Due **Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**

Free verse poetry is a more modern form of poetry, relatively speaking. It gets rid of the strict rules regarding rhyme schemes, rhythm, syllables, and allows the writer to simply do what they want. When you write a free verse poem, you have complete freedom, so be creative!

Free verse poetry:

- Does not try to follow any rigid requirements or obey conventional rules.
- The lines may vary in length from one word to several.
- Uses literary devices and author's craft to create emotion.
- Uses breaks at the writer's discretion instead of by set rules.

## Writing Free Verse Poetry

Since there are no rules to follow, it is important that everything you do in your poem is intentional.

- Your poem should be rich and creative in detail.
- Each word should be carefully chosen.
- Each line break should enhance the sound, meaning, and rhythm of the poem.
- Use your literary devices (personification, alliteration, metaphor, etc.) to create a vivid and powerful piece.

I will be posting examples of free verse poetry throughout the week to help inspire you.

Pick a topic or subject that you are passionate about! **You will have the week to complete a good copy of your free verse poem. Please look at the rubric which I will be using to assess your poem.**

## Free Verse Poetry Examples Part 1

*Cloud* by Kay Ryan

A blue stain  
creeps across  
the deep pile  
of the evergreens.  
From inside the  
forest it seems  
like an interior  
matter, something  
wholly to do  
with trees, a color  
passed from one  
to another, a  
requirement  
to which they  
submit unflinchingly  
like soldiers or  
brave people  
getting older.  
Then the sun  
comes back and  
it's totally over.

### Notes:

- This poem uses short lines to create a laser focus. No word is wasted here.
- Lots of vivid imagery. I can picture the forest, the blue sky, and the sun.
- Simile: “a requirement to which they submit unflinchingly, like soldiers or brave people getting older.”
- This poem captures a very brief moment in time, as if the writer took a moment to pause while walking in the woods to take in all the scenery.

*I Lost My Talk* by Rita Joe

I lost my talk  
The talk you took away.  
When I was a little girl  
At Shubenacadie school.

You snatched it away:  
I speak like you  
I think like you  
I create like you  
The scrambled ballad, about my word.

Two ways I talk  
Both ways I say,  
Your way is more powerful.

So gently I offer my hand and ask,  
Let me find my talk  
So I can teach you about me.

**Notes:**

- Rita Joe was a victim of the residential school system in Nova Scotia.
- The stanzas break up the content in a meaningful way, like paragraphs in an essay. The last line of each stanza always contains the crucial information.
- Each line shares its own important message.
- The repetition in the 2<sup>nd</sup> stanza is very powerful: *“I speak like you, I think like you, I create like you”*
- Powerful word choice: **“snatched”** in the second stanza, **“gently”** in the fourth stanza. These words add a lot of emotion to what the writer is stating.

# Social Studies: What Is Culture?

Culture is a word for the 'way of life' of groups of people, meaning the way they do things. Different groups may have different cultures. A culture is passed on to the next generation by learning, whereas genetics are passed on by heredity. Culture is seen in people's writing, religion, music, clothes, cooking and in what they do.

When it comes to culture, there is a lot more than meets the eye. Take a look at the cultural iceberg. We are familiar with cultural aspects such as music, clothing, food, etc. This is called **surface culture**. There is also **deep culture**, which are things that aren't as easily identified. Examples of **deep cultural** can be our attitudes towards work, religion, our elders, etc.

