

Summer Assignment

Harkness Method Preparation



Introduction

Our first unit of study will be *Introduction to Poetry Analysis*. We will be using the **Harkness Method** for the entirety of the unit. The following tasks must be completed prior to the first day of school, whether virtual or not. This preparation will be vital for your first and second week of class, and will directly affect your group discussion grade. If you are not prepared, you may not participate.

Part 1: Learn the Harkness Method

Your first task is to learn what the Harkness Method is, and the expectations for your performance during Harkness Discussions. Read [this](#) and watch [this](#) in order to give yourself an understanding of what Harkness is and your role in a successful Harkness discussion.

Part 2: Print Poems for Analysis

Have the following poems printed and taped into your English Notebook (which you will need). If you do not have a printer, you can copy them by hand. These will be the first five poems we use for analysis and discussion.

1. [Grease](#) by Dave Hutcheson
2. [In the Desert](#) by Stephen Crane
3. [Those Winter Sundays](#) by Robert Hayden
4. [Dog's Death](#) by John Updike
5. [In a Station of the Metro](#) by Ezra Pound

Part 3: Annotations

Throughout our Introduction to Poetry Analysis Unit, I will teach you strategies for poem analysis and techniques for delving beneath the plot of the text to find meaning in sound, space and word choice. You will learn to mark up your poems and stories in order to provide you with text references and thoughtful analyses to support your discussions. For now, just mark up what you notice. There are no right answers. Therefore, it is better if you do not look up analysis on the internet. You will get more recognition for authentic analyses than the contrived and repeated ones found online, which I am familiar with. Click [here](#) for sample annotations.

“Harkness puts more pressure on students to be involved with the texts they're encountering, to practice critical thinking and reasoning, and to develop their public speaking skills. Those goals do not replace the content; they simply enhance it. I think the end game with Harkness is to transform our students into responsible citizens who are not only well-informed, but also articulate. There's no point in knowing what we know if we aren't able to communicate well with others!”

- Mrs. Lauren Kopf, LRCA English Faculty