

## *Analytical Writing*

During this course, you will be asked to read a number of different genres, types of literature and to respond through analytical writing. Try not to be intimidated by assignments or worried about interpreting literature correctly. What is most important is that you present your original interpretation using examples and quotations from the text that support your ideas. Key points for **Week 1**: read a poem multiple times and take notes on your understanding of the meaning of the poem. Look for elements such as narrator, imagery and word choice and make notes on your insights. When you post to a discussion or write an essay, have a main point to make, thesis, use direct quotations to support your opinions and use APA citations to give credit. Some of you were fortunate to have been inspired by family, friends or teachers who love poetry and introduced you to the art form. From them you learn to appreciate poetry and to enjoy what poet Carl Sandburg called art which gathers the beautiful into words. But many others were not so lucky, merely enduring poetry when you encountered it. Regardless of your experiences keep in mind that determining what is good poetry is a judgment that is both personal, you like it and universal, it appeals to many people. While the ability to analyze poetry is important, it is even more desirable for you to learn to read poetry so you can experience the poet's words, think about them and feel their power. At its most basic level, poetry should be read for enjoyment before you attempt to put too much emphasis on interpretation. In English 1300, we ask that you first read to enjoy the poem and then return to it ready to find meaning.