**Individual Poetry Analysis**

**Read the four following poems ALOUD as a class and then complete the following questions individually on a separate piece of paper.**

**1. “Casey’s Revenge” by Grantland Rice**

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#### Casey's Revenge

There were saddened hearts in Mudville for a week or even more;

There were muttered oaths and curses --every fan in town was sore.

"Just think," said one, "how soft it looked with Casey at the bat!

And then to think he'd go and spring a bush-league trick like that."

All his past fame was forgotten; he was now a hopeless "shine."

They called him "Strike-out Casey" from the mayor down the line,

And as he came to bat each day his bosom heaved a sigh,

While a look of hopeless fury shone in mighty Casey's eye.

The lane is long, someone has said, that never turns again,

And fate, though fickle, often gives another chance to men.

And Casey smiled -- his rugged face no longer wore a frown;

The pitcher who had started all the trouble came to town.

All Mudville had assembled; ten thousand fans had come

To see the twirler who had put big Casey on the bum;

And when he stepped into the box, the multitude went wild.

He doffed his cap in proud disdain -- but Casey only smiled.

"Play ball!," the umpire's voice rang out, and then the game began;

But in that throng of thousands there was not a single fan

Who thought that Mudville had a chance; and with the setting sun

Their hopes sank low -- the rival team was leading "four to one."

The last half of the ninth came round, with no change in the score;

But when the first man up hit safe the crowd began to roar.

The din increased, the echo of ten thousand shouts was heard

When the pitcher hit the second and gave "four balls" to the third.

Three men on base -- nobody out -- three runs to tie the game!

A triple meant the highest niche in Mudville's hall of fame;

But here the rally ended and the gloom was deep as night

When the fourth one "fouled to catcher" and the fifth "flew out to right."

A dismal groan in chorus came -- a scowl was on each face --

When Casey walked up, bat in hand, and slowly took his place;

His bloodshot eyes in fury gleamed; his teeth were clinched in hate;

He gave his cap a vicious hook and pounded on the plate.

But fame is fleeting as the wind, and glory fades away;

There were no wild and wooly cheers, no glad acclaim this day.

They hissed and groaned and hooted as they clamored, "Strike him out!"

But Casey gave no outward sign that he had heard this shout.

The pitcher smiled and cut one loose; across the plate it spread;

Another hiss, another groan. "Strike one!" the umpire said.

Zip! Like a shot, the second curve broke just below his knee--

"Strike two!" the umpire roared aloud; but Casey made no plea.

No roasting for the umpire now -- his was an easy lot;

But here the pitcher whirled again -- was that a rifle shot?

A whack! a crack! and out through space the leather pellet flew,

A blot against the distant sky, a speck against the blue.

Above the fence in center field, in rapid whirling flight,

The sphere sailed on; the blot grew dim and then was lost to sight.

Ten thousand hats were thrown in air, ten thousand threw a fit,

But no one ever found the ball that mighty Casey hit!

Oh, somewhere in this favored land dark clouds may hide the sun.

And somewhere bands no longer play and children have no fun;

And somewhere over blighted lives there hangs a heavy pall;

But Mudville hearts are happy now -- for Casey hit the ball!

**“Casey’s Revenge” Questions**

1. What type of poem is this?
2. What is the main theme or message of the poem?
3. Why do you think Grantland Rice wrote this? (He didn’t write “Casey at the Bat”)
4. What is the rhyme scheme in this poem?
5. Name three poetic devices found in this poem and list an example for each.
6. Research and write one sentence about the author.

**2. “I wandered Lonely as a Cloud” by William Wordsworth (p. 897 Lit book)**

# I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

BY [WILLIAM WORDSWORTH](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/william-wordsworth)

I wandered lonely as a cloud

That floats on high o'er vales and hills,

When all at once I saw a crowd,

A host, of golden daffodils;

Beside the lake, beneath the trees,

Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine

And twinkle on the milky way,

They stretched in never-ending line

Along the margin of a bay:

Ten thousand saw I at a glance,

Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they

Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:

A poet could not but be gay,

In such a jocund company:

I gazed—and gazed—but little thought

What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie

In vacant or in pensive mood,

They flash upon that inward eye

Which is the bliss of solitude;

And then my heart with pleasure fills,

And dances with the daffodils.

“**I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” Questions**

1. What is the theme or message of this poem?

2. What is an example of a simile from this poem?

3. What is an example of personification from this poem?

4. To what are the daffodils compared in stanza 2? What does this comparison suggest about the daffodils?

5. What do we learn about the speaker?

6. Research and write one sentence about the author.

**3. “Dream Deferred” and “Dreams” by Langston Hughes (p. 204-905 Lit book)**

**Dreams**

Hold onto dreams  
For if dreams die  
Life is like a broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams  
For when dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow.

**Dream Deferred**

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up   
like a raisin in the sun?   
Or fester like a sore--   
And then run?   
Does it stink like rotten meat?   
Or crust and sugar over--   
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags   
like a heavy load.

*Or does it explode?*

**“Dreams” and “Dream Deferred” Poem**

1. Which poem affected you more? Why?

2. Paraphrase the message of “Dream Deferred”?

3. Paraphrase the message of “Dreams”?

4. What is a simile from “Dream Deferred”?

5. What is a metaphor from “Dreams”?

6. Research and write one sentence about the author.