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| Day 1 Pre-assessment  *Separate Handouts* | 1.Slam Poetry overload.  2.Video with comments - Discussion.  3.Final presentation handout (Explain) (MA)  4. Poetic devices handout given (COM)  5. Poetry Package Given for final turn in last day of the year (Side project) (MA) |
| Day 2-3  *Attached* | 1.Watch Slam Nation –  2.Do handout for discussion. Turn in hard copy or digital copy. (MIN) |
| Day 4  *Attached* | 1.Translation of traditional poem into modern poetry (MIN)  2.Handout to be given – assigned over the weekend if not completed in class |
| Day 5 Commitment  *Separate Handout* | 1. Improvisational writing (Fragments)  2.This I believe / Rant / Slam – choose and fill out worksheet (COM) – hand out notecards. |
| Day 6 | 1.Poetry Package work time  2.In class work on Slams due the following day. |
| Day 7 Presentations / rules / scores | FINAL Day 1 |
| Day 8 Presentations / rules / scores | FINAL Day 2 |
| ~*Various*~ Activities | 1.Current issue topics Duel (Poetry debate) Can be recorded or spoken in class.  2. Cold reading of five poems in a different way  3. narrative non- fiction on theme  5. Sentence Ball  6. Blackout poetry handout |

Poetry Package Unit Overview

**Day 2-3**

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|  |
| *What is slam poetry?* | *Describe one famous slam poet?* | |
| *How is slam poetry different from traditional poetry taught in high school?* | *What surprises you about slam poetry?* | |
| *Describe the rules of slam.* | *What are some questions you still have about slam poetry?* | |

***Slam Nation***

## Study Guide Questions

* 1. What is slam poetry?
  2. From where does the tradition of Slam Poetry come?
  3. How is a Slam competition like a “representative democracy”?
  4. What are the rules of Slam?
  5. How are the poems judged?
  6. Describe Marc Smith’s role in the Slam community.
  7. What role(s) did the teams from Boston, Chicago, and New York play in the early days of Slam?
  8. How is the New York Slam team different from other Slam teams?

1. How is Slam poetry different from traditional poetry taught in schools. Use examples from your own life.
2. Who is the audience for Slam? How do the language and or themes of Slam appeal to audiences?
3. How does Slam poetry give marginalized people or groups a voice? Use examples from the film in your response.
4. How does the publishing world view Slam poetry? Do you think that view is justified? Why or why not?
5. What poetic techniques did you notice the poets using? Describe how one technique was used.
6. Do you think it is fair for one poet to use words from another poet’s poems? Why or why not?
7. Which team would you have picked to win the finals and why?
8. What questions do you have after watching *Slam Nation*?

**Day 4**

Poetry Translation / Reading

We have seen what slam poetry / spoken word is. We have talked about some elements of what people do in spoken word presentations. Now it is time to take those skills from yesterday’s videos and discussion and apply them to traditional poetry. Your task today is to find a poem in this website:

<https://discoverpoetry.com/poems/100-most-famous-poems/>

Now when you find a poem that clicks with you, I want you to “spruce it up” – meaning I want you to add a little extra modern reboot flare. Don’t look for the shortest. That won’t do Here is an example of what I’m looking for:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Original: | My Translation |
| **No Man is an Island**  John Donne  No man is an island,  Entire of itself,  Every man is a piece of the continent,  A part of the main.  If a clod be washed away by the sea,  Europe is the less.  As well as if a promontory were.  As well as if a manor of thy friend's  Or of thine own were:  Any man's death diminishes me,  Because I am involved in mankind,  And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;  It tolls for thee. | **I am Amortal**  Purdzz  I am my own person  Yet I’m part of a bigger  Picture framing the world  Ready to live, to die  If the mood is set right  Someone walks up, steps on  And scans my land scape  Either sizes up or looks agape  Acceptance at last, at last  Alone with others accept  The accent in oil paints and which  Canvas ease individuals into a  Collective and rest assure  I’m my own person, A mortal  Each to their own  All, each, I - Die,  alone with you  I die with you alone  and at my side, you die too. |

This is a quick and dirty \*Loose\* translation of my favorite poet John Donne. You’re making sense of the poem, then you’re summarising it (what does it mean?) then you’re making it into your own voice – something that connects to you personally.

So here are the steps to success for this assignment:

1. Go to <https://discoverpoetry.com/poems/100-most-famous-poems/>
2. Find a classic poem that you connect to.
3. Do some research on the poem. Find out what the poet is trying to say.
4. Copy and paste the poem into the left hand of a 4 square table:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Original | My translation |
|  |  |

1. On the right hand side, now you know what your chosen poem means, write your own version in a ‘slam poem’ way – meaning use the elements we talked about yesterday in your own translation.
2. Share your finished poem with a few people around you (doesn’t matter who) and get prepared to share with me tomorrow. Completion mark.