

Hannah's Poetry

Thirteen Reasons Why

SOUL ALONE BY HANNAH BAKER

I meet your eyes
you don't even
see me
You hardly
respond
when I whisper
hello
Could be my soul
mate
two kindred spirits
Maybe we're not
I guess we'll never
know

My own mother
you carried me in
you
Now you see
nothing
but what I wear
People ask you
how I am doing
You smile and nod
don't let it end
there

Put me
underneath God's sky
and
know me
don't just see me with
your eyes
Take away
this mask of flesh and
bone and
see me
for my soul
alone

THE RED WHEELBARROW BY WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS

so much depends
upon
a red wheel
barrow
glazed with rain
water
beside the white
chickens.



Analysis

- What do the poems mean?
- What is the lesson?
- How do the two poems relate to each other?
- What do you get from these poems?

Poetry Slam

- Watch the following Youtube:
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWk03x5-8Uk>
- Get into small groups and brainstorm a topic that you would like to turn into a spoken word poem. Write out the parts and video.

- Can be done individually or in groups of 2-3.
- Must be about a topic that you think is globally important.
- Does NOT need to rhyme!
- The performance must be at least 60 seconds long.

Step One

- ***Choose a Topic.*** Identify an event, person, or issue that evokes a passion in you. It could be a trip that changed the way you look at life. Maybe you recently fell in love or went through a bad breakup. Or, perhaps you're determined to do whatever you can to fight animal cruelty. When you're fired up, emotions and words are more likely to flow out of you.

Step Two

- ***Put Your Words on Paper.*** Use your five senses to create a first draft. Write down what you see, hear, taste, touch, and smell when you think about your topic. Details are key when it comes to painting a vivid picture through slam poetry, so always ask yourself: "could I be more specific?" For instance, instead of writing "I drank a glass of water," write "I sipped on an ice-cold glass of water with a pinch of lemon that was so tart, it made me cringe." Craft your words into short stanzas that lend themselves to a natural rhythm and feel free to use rhyme if you feel like it.

Step Three

- ***Add a Little Drama.*** Remember, you're not just reading your poem out loud—you're performing! The goal is to get the audience to audibly react (i.e. laugh, cry, gasp, snap, clap, yell "yeah!") to increase your score. So look for ways to increase the drama. Are there moments where you can whisper or shout? Are there places where you can speed up or slow down? Can you throw in facial expressions or bodily movements to illustrate your main messages?