ENG221 Children’s Literature
Guided Reading Chapter Eight: Poetry

Before you begin: Preview the informal outline at the beginning of the chapter to organize your thoughts as you read. You’ll probably want to refer to this outline as you read through the chapter.

The Meaning of Poetry
• What are six characteristics of poetry?
• Can you give examples of rhythm and imagery as elements of poetry?
• Understand the devices that give distinctive sound to poetry (alliteration, assonance, onomatopoeia, repetition)
• Understand the devices of figurative language that allow comparisons and contrasts in poetry (simile, metaphor, personification).
• How does poetry gain meaning from its shape?
• Study the “Questions for Evaluating Poetry for Children.”
• Be aware of the rich multicultural poems

Selecting Poetry for Children
• Observe recent trends in the publication of poetry.
• What distinguishes poetry from verse?
• Skim the sections that describe poets and their work, stopping to read more carefully about specific poems that you might want to read.
• Skim the charts on “Comprehensive Poetry Anthologies,” Specialized Collections of Poetry” and “Picture-Book Editions of single Poems.”

Weekly Writing: (Choose one of the following to essay your response in 1 full page-single-spaced).
- Write a few annotated bibliography entries for Chapter Eight. Consider poetry anthologies, collections of one poet, or a book of one poem. Remember that your job is to describe and evaluate the presentation (anthology, one-poet collection, or single volume/picture book or illustrated book). Special features/distinguishing characteristics of a particular anthology, collection, or single volume should also be described and evaluated.
- Choose one or several poems to analyze/and compare based on the Guidelines for Evaluating Poetry. (Note: This too may be developed into your Annotated Bibliography.)
- Memorize a favorite “children’s” poem and share your poem with the class. Then help us understand the poem’s poetic elements (use the Guidelines for Evaluating Poetry).
- Write your own poetry. Experiment with verse forms such as concrete poetry or found poetry.