

Mimetic Poem Guidelines

Name

AP English Literature and Composition

Date

Mimetic Poem

As you hopefully recall from the mimesis assignment from first semester, mimesis is a mimicry of someone else's work. It is inspiration-driven writing, with a very specific source of inspiration – the work of another. Humans are natural-born mimickers, so the adage--*there is nothing new under the sun*--makes sense. We are inspired by other's actions and words, and to use another cliché, *imitation is the highest/sincerest/greatest form of flattery*. Our current attitude towards mimesis – think of the remixing of songs, for an example—is ever-changing. [Creative Commons](#) has given content-producers options for HOW work can be used and so, as you embark on this assignment keep in mind that there are many ways a writer can mimic another's, and that in doing so, it can, (and, in most cases, should) be done in reverence for the that person's work. (Parody and satire are another story altogether!)

Your mimetic poem should mimic your selected poet's work in one or more ways. Possible areas of imitation include the following

- sentence/phrase structure (syntax)
- word choice (diction)
- voice (style)
- tone
- form or lack thereof
- use of figurative language
- rhyme scheme
- use of other sound devices
- subject matter

Process:

(You will either do one or three of these, depending on if you've decided to take the creative route or the analytical route.)

1. Write a poem that emulates the work of your selected poem. You should imitate it in multiple ways. Find inspiration in at least three of the above-mentioned traits.
2. It may include the same or similar lines or phrases (but don't overdo this). Use exact replication as a springboard for your own piece.
3. Indicate WHICH poem(s) inspired yours by including its title and the author's name somewhere on your document.
4. Please include a brief author's note (either for each of the poems you write or a single note that encompasses all three works, if you are writing three) to accompany your poems so that I can *see* your thought process in the choices you made. Also include, in this note, *why* you chose each poem as inspiration (since you had so many poems from which to choose).