SOCIAL ISSUES POETRY RESPONSE

PURPOSE:

You will review social issues, choosing one you find meaningful and important. Then, you will write a poem, (type of your choice) responding to this social issue. Your poem must make use of poetic devices and when analyzed, the reader must be able to respond to the "six elements of a poem."

SUGGESTIONS/EXAMPLES:

-Homelessness	-Drugs and Alcohol	-Poverty	-Education	-Environment
-LGBTQ Rights	-Bullying	-Body Image	-Indigenous Rights	-Crime

1. Begin by doing some research. What is the issue? What are your thoughts on it? Consider main ideas, emotions, thoughts, etc.
2. Brainstorm words and ideas associated with the social issue
3. Look for poems/songs on your social issue as guidance if necessary
4. Begin writing out your poem. Don't be afraid to go back over it and make changes

SUCCESS CRITERIA:

- I will ensure that my poem can be analyzed using the Six Elements of a Poem guidelines
- I will divide my poem into lines, stanzas, and/or verses as I see appropriate
- I will use poetic devices/imaginative language to make my poem more engaging
- I will edit my poem in an appropriate manner
- I will write out my poem in a visually meaningful way, (font size; font; background; etc.)

SAMPLE POEM – "Strange Fruit"

Southern trees bear strange fruit,
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root,
Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze,
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees.

Pastoral scene of the gallant south,
The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth,
Scent of magnolias, sweet and fresh,
Then the sudden smell of burning flesh.

Here is the fruit for the crows to pluck,
For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck,
For the sun to rot, for the trees to drop,
Here is a strange and bitter crop.

Abel Meeropol

Read the sample poem, "Strange Fruit" by Abel Meerpol.

- What is happening in the poem? Do all of the words/ideas make sense?
- How does the poem make you feel?
- What social issue is the main idea?
- Consider Thought, Form, Sound, Imagery, and Descriptive Language for the poem. How do these elements add to the poem?

➢ This poem meets all of the criteria for a "good" poem. Take this into consideration as you develop your own.

RUBRIC AND MARKS

Social Issues Poem				
Categories	**Level 1** **(50 - 59%)**	**Level 2** **(60 - 69%)**	**Level 3** **(70 - 79%)**	**Level 4** **(80 - 100%)**
Knowledge and Understanding	shows limited knowledge of the poetic form	shows some knowledge of the poetic form	shows considerable knowledge of the poetic form	shows thorough knowledge of the poetic form
Thinking and Inquiry	expresses few ideas with limited support by relevant evidence or rationales asks self few questions	expresses some ideas supported by relevant evidence or rationales asks self some questions	expresses ideas supported clearly by relevant evidence or rationales asks self good questions	expresses many ideas supported effectively by relevant evidence or rationales asks self probing questions
Communication	meaning and intent are frequently unclear demonstrates limited sense of purpose	meaning and intent are sometimes unclear demonstrates some sense of purpose	meaning and intent are clear demonstrates clear sense of purpose	meaning and intent are clear and engaging demonstrates strong sense of purpose
Application	several major grammatical errors and many spelling errors makes few personal connections	some major grammatical and several spelling errors makes some personal connections	some minor grammatical errors and few spelling errors makes considerable personal connections	few minor grammatical and no spelling errors makes many personal connections

MARK: _____/20

FEEDBACK: