**Hosting a Poem**

Host a poem for your classmates! Select a poem, a minimum of fourteen lines. Make sure that it is by a major author from the “Poems to Memorize” website, sponsored by Alysion, or ask for preapproval from me. Once selected, consider if you would like to “Shoot the Moon.” “Shooting the Moon” means to go all in, hold nothing back, to attain great heights; in this case think of something extra to enrich the meaning of your poem, and the best part is, it can add up to 10 points to your presentation!

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| Performance Criteria | Excellent | Well Done | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory |
| Introducing the poem/ brings a copy of the poem | Sets up the audience to listen to and understand the poem on several levels. | Sets up the audience to listen to and understand the poem. | Sets up some elements of the poem | Does not set up the poem |
| Memorization Skills | Knows the poem well; practiced extensively; speaks with confidence | Knows the poem; evidence of practice; somewhat confident | Knows some of the poem; little practice; ill at ease | Does not know poem |
| Physical Delivery  Eye contact, gesturing, etc. | Looks at/recites to the audience; has a physical presence | Looks at/ recites to most of the audience; | Looks at and recites to a few people | Looks at/ recites to teacher, and 1 or 2 people |
| Oral Delivery  Voice and Pacing | Recites loudly and clearly; is understood by all members of the audience; paces the poem effectively; not too fast or slow; “spoke” the punctuation | Recites loudly and clearly; is understood by most members of the audience; pace the poem unevenly; slightly too fast or slow; “spoke” some of the punctuation | Recites too softly; words are unclear; some cannot understand; Spoke too fast or too slow; ignored the end-line punctuation | Recites too softly; mumbles; cannot be understood  Paced the poem so as not to understand the words |
| Shooting the Moon: Bonus | *Varies upon student selection* |  |  |  |

**Preparation:** On Tuesday, have a poem in your pocket. Any teacher or adult may ask you to recite it at any time. You may read it or recite it, and don’t forget to ask the adult to sign their name that they heard you (on the copy of the poem preferably). Students may hint that you want to read your poem, but do not interrupt a class or in any way be “pushy.” *One point per listener, maximum of five points, but even if you have already earned your five points, please do not refuse a request.*

**Questions to help you prepare:**

* What is the theme or truth of the poem?
* What did you like/dislike about this poem?
* What strategies did you use to memorize this poem?
* Are there any terms or wordplay that need to be pointed to or emphasized?
* Are there any interesting stories with the poem?
* Do you have a personal connection to the poem? Why did you choose it?
* The Poetry Out Loud competition recommends John Hollander’s advice,

“In reciting a poem aloud, you are not like an actor, coming to understand, and then feel yourself in a dramatic part, a fictional person. It’s rather that you come to understand, and then to be, the voice of the poem itself.” (“Committed to Memory”)

**Options for “Shooting the Moon”:**

* Add difficulty: length, complexity, etc.
* Create a frame to explain the poem, for example imagining that you received a poem like Annabelle Lee from a friend, Edgar Allan Poe, and now you are concerned about him.
* Create a film with images and or music to play behind you as you recite the poem.
* Use props or to enrich the poem
* Grab a partner and figure out how to use two voices to enhance the meaning of the poem.
* Come up with an option of your own and discuss it with me.

**Break a leg!**