**Process Notebook Guiding Questions**

**Poem Research Paper**

**Directions: When submitting your Guided Questions as part of your Process Notebook, please include this sheet in front of your responses.**

**Part I. Poem Information**: Respond in detail to all parts of the questions in this section.

1. Title:
2. Author:

**Part II. Structural and Thematic Poem Information:** Responses should be about 3-4 sentences for each question.

1. Briefly describe how the poem begins. Does is start *in medias res* (“in the middle of things”) or give you a gradual introduction?

2. Give a plot summary of the poem.

3. From what perspective is your poem delivered? Who is the speaker?

4. What major themes do you see in the poem?

5. Find an example of at least 3 of the following literary features within your poem. This section will be graded based on accurate identification of the literary features and depth of analysis.

A. Quote the lines that contain the literary feature.

B. Answer the following questions for each one: What is the purpose of the literary feature within the poem as a whole? Aka- Why does this allusion matter?

C. How might this particular literary feature be a plausible focus for your research paper?

(Sample Literary Features)

- Connotation vs. Denotation

- Pun

- Foreshadowing

- Flashback

- Sarcasm

- Paradox

- Irony

- Juxtaposition

- Symbolism

- Allusion

- Theme

**#1. Literary Feature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**A. Direct Quote:**

**B. Purpose:**

**C. Research Focus:**

**#2. Literary Feature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**A. Direct Quote:**

**B. Purpose:**

**C. Research Focus:**

**#3. Literary Feature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**A. Direct Quote:**

**B. Purpose:**

**C. Research Focus:**

**Part III: Research Beginnings: For this section, each full response should be about 5-7 sentences.**

**- Choose FOUR of the following 14 prompting perspectives to begin determining what you may be interested in researching for your paper. The bolded words will act as the viewpoints from which you could approach the analysis of your poem.**

**- Answer all sub-questions. Choose prompts that are relevant to your poem. Some may not apply as well as others.**

**- Write your own research question representing the observations you recorded in response to the prompts. (The “Ex.” portions of the prompts are samples and act as models, but they should not be directly copied)**

**1. Setting**: Describe the setting. How does the setting impact the plot, characters, and larger themes within the poem? Ex. How does Forks, Washington, impact plot, characters, and meaning in *Twilight*?

2. **Gender**: Do characters in the poem reinforce or defy traditional gender roles? Give several examples supporting your answer. How does the depiction of gender roles in your poem impact that main characters’ lives? Ex. In what ways do Katniss, Peeta, and Gale reinforce or break gender norms?

3. **Race**: Describe the racial demographics of the characters in the poem. How do racial demographics within the poem impact or not impact the plot or character relationships? Ex. Why are there so many white people in the 12 districts of the *Hunger Games*?

4. **Biographical**: How is are the personal experiences of the poet reflected in the poem? Ex. How is Rick Riordan’s personal life reflected in *Percy Jackson*?

5. **Characterization of the Protagonist**: Is the protagonist of your poem a traditional choice for the role of the “hero”? If not, what about the protagonist makes him or her a compelling and relatable figure for a wide audience, in spite of whatever it is that makes him or her a nontraditional “hero” figure? Ex. Why does Batman’s use of vigilante justice in *The Dark Knight* have more impact than the legal system in Gotham?

6. **Historical/Political/Social Context**: How does a poem set in a different time period depict that era, while still reflecting modern-day morals and values? How does *Game of Thrones* compare to the Medieval Ages, while still reflecting modern-day morals and values?

7. **Psychological**: What motivates the characters depicted in your poem of choice? What types of decisions do the characters generally make? Do any of the characters suffer from mental illnesses or struggle with traumatic experiences from the past? Ex. In what ways is Bella’s love for Edward similar to Stockholm syndrome?

8. **Physical**: Are there any characters who suffer from physical ailments or disabilities? How does a character’s health impact the way he or she views the world? Ex. How does Jason Street’s life change when he goes from being a star quarterback to being paralyzed from the waist down in *Friday Night Lights*?

9. **Allegory**: Does the plot of the poem mirror or indirectly reference real events? How might those multidisciplinary (spanning or overlapping different academic areas of study) connections be used to articulate a specific message? Ex. What are the similarities between Voldemort and Hitler’s rise to power?

10. **Critical Reception**: How do readers feel about your poem of choice? What major praises or criticisms surround the poem? What motivates those praises or criticisms? What do they reflect about society at that time? Ex. Why does everybody hate on *Twilight*?

11. **Comparison/Contrast**: Does your poem of choice remind you of a seemingly dissimilar cultural phenomenon? Do you think your academic or cultural value of your poem is connected to something classically accepted as “art” even though the film itself is not? Ex. What similarities exist between “The Simpsons” and Shakespeare?

12. **Symbolism**: How are certain objects, colors, conditions, songs, places, etc. used to achieve a specific purpose within the poem? Is that symbol commonly used in popular culture to achieve that same purpose or is the message in your poem of choice defying a particular perception or stereotype? Ex. How is cancer portrayed in various novels, particularly, *The Fault in our Stars*, and what is its significance in each?

13**. Genre Study**: Is your poem part of a long tradition, such as a Country Western or Romance or did its creation spark an entirely new type of poem, cultural phenomenon, or vernacular? Ex. How did *Watchmen* change the genre of comic books/graphic novels?

14. **Sources/Influences/Allusions**: Does the poem contain a series of allusions? How are those allusions used in the poem to contribute to a larger meaning? Are the allusions used in a way that seems unexpected or overtly subtle? Ex. What classical (Greek and Latin) allusions appear in *Harry Potter*, and what do all those fancy magic Latin words mean?