

Name:  
Class:

## Poetry Analysis Packet

1. What is the rhyme scheme of this **ENTIRE** poem? You may write it along the side using capital letters.

Directions: Use complete sentences to answer the following questions except for question 1.

Poem #1

### “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

2. What is the tone of this poem? How do you know?

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear,  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

3. What is the extended metaphor in this poem? What do the two roads symbolize?

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

4. What is the mood of this poem? Explain.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

5. What is significant about the title? Why not title this poem “Two Roads” or “The Road Less Traveled”?



6. What is the main take away from this poem? What is the moral or theme?

Poem #2

**“I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud”**  
by William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a Cloud  
That floats on high o'er Vales and Hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host of golden Daffodils;  
Beside the Lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.  
Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the Milky Way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.  
The waves beside them danced, but they  
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:  
A Poet could not but be gay  
In such a jocund company:  
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought  
What wealth the shew to me had brought:  
For oft when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude,  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the Daffodils.

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**PREVIEW**

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1. Summarize the poem above in 2-3 sentences.

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2. Why is this categorized as a romantic poem?

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3. Fill in the following chart with examples from the poem “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud.”

alliteration	
assonance	

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consonance	
personification	

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imagery	
simile	

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enjambment	
hyperbole	

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Poem #3

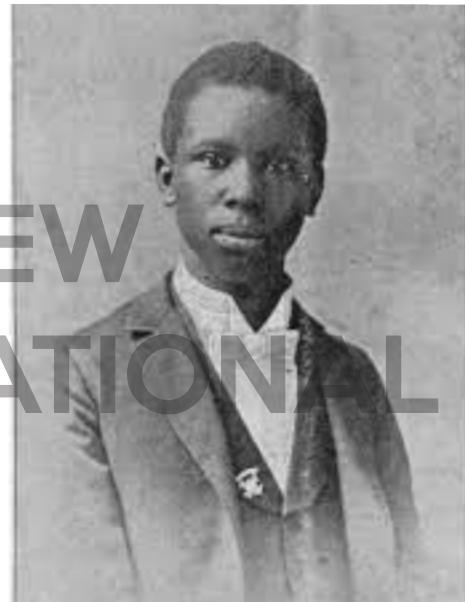
“We Wear the Mask” (1895)

By Paul Laurence Dunbar

We wear the mask that grins and lies,  
It hides our cheeks and shades our eyes,—  
This debt we pay to human *guile*;  
With torn and bleeding hearts we smile,  
And mouth with *myriad subtleties*.

Why should the world be over-wise,  
In counting all our tears and sighs?  
Nay, let them only see us, while  
We wear the mask.

We smile, but, O great Christ, our cries  
To thee from tortured souls arise.  
We sing, but oh the clay is vile  
Beneath our feet, and long the mile;  
But let the world dream otherwise,  
We wear the mask!



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Paul Laurence Dunbar was born in Ohio on June 27, 1872 to two formerly enslaved people from Kentucky.

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*guile*: sly intelligence  
*vile*: horrible, appalling, despicable  
*mouth with myriad subtleties*: countless ways to be respectful using speech or facial expressions

1. Who is “we” in this poem?

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2. What is the mask a metaphor for?

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3. What is the author’s purpose for writing this poem? Who is it written for?

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4. What impact does the allusion to Christ have on the poem?

5. What is the connotation of the word “dream”? Why is it significant?

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6. Why does the speaker repeat the phrase “we wear the mask”?

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7. What is the purpose of the rhetorical question seen in the second stanza?

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9. What is the theme of this poem?

10. What do the following lines mean and how do they contribute to the theme?

“We sing, but oh the clay is vile, beneath our feet, and long the mile”

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Poem #4

**"We never know how high we are"**  
By Emily Dickinson

We never know how high we are  
Till we are asked to rise  
And then if we are true to plan  
Our statures touch the skies —

The Heroism we recite  
Would be a normal thing  
Did not ourselves the Cubits warp  
For fear to be a King —



Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

1. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?

You may write it along the side of the poem using capital letters.

2. What is the meaning of the metaphor in the first stanza?

3. Why do you think Dickinson capitalizes "Heroism," "Cubits," and "King"?

4. What is one example of a sound device from this poem? Specify which sound device you are identifying.

5. According to the poem, what prevents people from acting heroically all the time?

6. What is the theme of the poem? Do you agree or disagree with Dickinson's message? Explain.

**Poem #5 “The Gardener”**  
by Robert Louis Stevenson

The gardener does not love to talk.  
He makes me keep the gravel walk;  
And when he puts his tools away,  
He locks the door and takes the key.

Away behind the currant row,  
Where no one else but cook may go,  
Far in the plots, I see him dig,  
Old and serious, brown and big.

He digs the flowers, green, red, and blue,  
Nor wishes to be spoken to.  
He digs the flowers and cuts the hay,  
And never seems to want to play.

Silly gardener! summer goes,  
And winter comes with pinching toes,  
When in the garden bare and brown  
You must lay your barrow down.

Well now, and while the summer stays,  
To profit by these garden days  
O how much wiser you would be  
To play at Indian wars with me!



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1. What types of tasks are involved with the occupation of a gardener?

2. What is the setting of the poem?

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3. Who is narrating the poem? How do you know?

4. Find an example of a slant rhyme in the poem.

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6. What is the gardener like?