ENGL 207  
Instructor: Ms. Patty Hanahoe-Dosch  
Writing Assignment #2

Instructions: Choose a poem from your textbook. *Do not choose one of the parables or psalms.* Research the poet and the poem. You may *not* choose a poem by Edgar Allan Poe or Lewis Carroll or one of the ones we will be discussing in class. (See list of those at the end of this assignment.) Cite your sources using the MLA documentation style. Write a report informing us about the poem and the poet. Note: If you want to write about a poem and poet you found outside the textbook, you must get my permission or I will not accept the paper. I must be sure that the poem/poet is appropriate for this kind of assignment. Email me a copy of the poem and explain where you got it from and why you want to write about it. The report should include the following:

**Part I**

This should present biographical, social, cultural and historical information about the author and context of his/her poetry. Summarize the information, *but include two quotes.* Make sure you use correct in-text/parenthetical and works cited citations for both quotes and summaries. Failure to do so will result in a grade of F for plagiarism.  
This section must be about a minimum of 350 words in length, but may be even longer. You must use a book (NOT a dictionary) and/or articles from one of the HACC library's databases as your source for information. You may not use the Internet.

**Part II**

A. List the other works the poet has written. You may cut and paste the list from a source, but make sure you cite where you got it from, using the correct MLA citation. *Don’t list individual poems.* *Give the book titles of the books in which they were originally published.*

B. Write a paragraph discussing what you think of the poem and the poet's work, in general. Quote from at least three scholars/academics who have said something about this poet’s work. Preferably, the quotes should pertain to the poem you chose, but they don’t have to if you can’t find anything on it; they can be about the poet's work, in general. Don't just give the quotes. *Explain the quotes.* *Wikipedia and other general sources do not count here.* *These must be academic sources, not from the Internet, and they must be from scholarly/academic essays, not reviews or biographies.* The HACC library's databases or a book are your best resources for this.

*Make sure you cite your sources correctly, using in-text or parenthetical citations!* *Tell me where you got all this information.*
Part III

Tell us about the poem you chose. Answer all of the following questions, quoting from the poem to support your answers. The answer to each question must be at least 100 words in length. Some will probably need to be longer.

1.a) What is the poem about literally? b) What is the poem about figuratively (in terms of a theme, figurative language or allegory)? Explain how you know this. In other words, what are the clues in the poem that tell you this is what the poem about?

2. What are the important symbols in the poem and what do they mean?

3. Are there any metaphors, similes or other figurative elements? What are they and how/why do they work?

4. Is it an open or closed form poem? How do you know?

5. Tell us something more about the form of the poem. Does the form work with the content in any way? Explain.

6. Why did you choose this poem? Did it ‘speak’ to you in some way? Did you like it? Why or why not?

Part IV

Works Cited list for all three parts.

Also, make sure you cite all of your sources using both textual citations and a Works Cited list, MLA style!!! I expect this to be written with care and attention paid to organization, development, grammar and appropriate word choices. Make sure you proofread for grammar and spelling mistakes. Errors in these will affect your grade!

The poems we will be discussing, which you may not write about, are:

"Dulce et Decorum Est"

"The Red Wheelbarrow"

"Buffalo Bill's"

"Do Not Go Gentle"

"Traveling Through the Dark"

"Thoughts on Capital Punishment"

"We Real Cool" and all poems by Gwendolyn Brooks