This is the one song everyone would like to learn: the song that is irresistible:

the song that forces men to leap overboard in squadrons even though they see beached skulls

the song nobody knows because anyone who had heard it is dead, and the others can’t remember.

Shall I tell you the secret and if I do, will you get me out of this bird suit? I don’t enjoy it here squatting on this island looking picturesque and mythical with these two feathery maniacs, I don’t enjoy singing this trio, fatal and valuable.

I will tell the secret to you, to you, only to you. Come closer. This song is a cry for help: Help me! Only you, only you can, you are unique

at last. Alas it is a boring song but it works every time.
“The History Teacher” by Billy Collins

Trying to protect his students’ innocence
he told them the Ice Age was really just
the Chilly Age, a period of a million years
when everyone had to wear sweaters.

And the stone Age became the Gravel Age,
named after the long driveways of the time.

The Spanish Inquisition was nothing more
than an outbreak of questions such as
“How far is it from here to Madrid?”
“What do you call the matador’s hat?”

The War of the Roses took place in a garden,
and the Enola Gay* dropped one tiny atom
on Japan.

The children would leave his classroom
for the playground to torment the weak
and the smart,
mussing up their hair and breaking their glasses
while he gathered up his notes and walked home
past flower beds and white picket fences,
wanting if they would believe that soldiers
in the Boer War told long, rambling stories
designed to make the enemy nod off.

* The name of the airplane from which an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945.
“We Are Going” by Oodgeroo Noonuccal

They came in to the little town
A semi-naked band subdued and silent
All that remained of their tribe.
They came here to the place of their old bora ground
Where now the many white men hurry about like ants.
Notice of the estate agent reads: 'Rubbish May Be Tipped Here'.
Now it half covers the traces of the old bora ring.

'We are as strangers here now, but the white tribe are the strangers.
We belong here, we are of the old ways.
We are the corroboree and the bora ground,
We are the old ceremonies, the laws of the elders.
We are the wonder tales of Dream Time, the tribal legends told.
We are the past, the hunts and the laughing games, the wandering camp fires.
We are the lightening bolt over Gaphembah Hill
Quick and terrible,
And the Thunderer after him, that loud fellow.

We are the quiet daybreak paling the dark lagoon.
We are the shadow-ghosts creeping back as the camp fires burn low.
We are nature and the past, all the old ways
Gone now and scattered.
The scrubs are gone, the hunting and the laughter.
The eagle is gone, the emu and the kangaroo are gone from this place.
The bora ring is gone.
The corroboree is gone.
And we are going.
First the day,
then daybreak,
and finally the time for parting.
Local time in Beijing is 7 o’clock according to the TV.

As a child, I liked to lie in bed
and wait for daybreak,
my silver broach stayed in its soft dormant curve.
I counted my fingers,
exactly ten.

Almost daybreak,
but no light in the sky.
At daybreak you come. Daylight is gone when you go.
Days with light, days without light, days come, days go.
You come, you go, coming and going, walking to me, and away from me.

Now a grown-up, I still daydream,
waiting for daybreak like waiting for an archaeologist
to excavate, patting me with a spade
and expose me to daylight.
Oh, oh, just as I feel the thrill, I see your hand leaving.
Getting to Know You...

**Gary Soto:**

*Years:* 1952 – Present  
*Where:* California  
*Period:* Contemporary

- Father killed in a factory at a young age  
- Focus on everyday situations – life of Mexican-American community  
- Taught at Berkley and Riverside

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**Adrienne Rich:**

*Years:* 1929 – 2012  
*Where:* America  
*Period:* Contemporary

- Typical 50’s mother – stay at home  
- Radical Feminist – challenging strong held cultural beliefs  
- Came out in 1976

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**John Keats:**

*Years:* 1795 – 1820  
*Where:* England  
*Period:* Romantic

- Dead at age 25 from TB  
- Wanted to marry a girl, but too poor  
- Negative Capability – ability to accept uncertainty and unresolved

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**Robert Frost:**

*Years:* 1874 – 1963  
*Where:* New England  
*Period:* Modern

- Depictions of rural life in NE  
- Did not follow popular trends of the time period  
- Won 4 PPs for poetry
**W.H. Auden:**

**Years:** 1907 – 1973  
**Where:** England  
**Period:** Modern

- Rejected Romantic and earlier styles  
- Technical genius  
- Individual life in relation to society – considered left-leaning

**Allen Ginsberg:**

**Years:** 1926 – 1997  
**Where:** NY/World  
**Period:** Beat

- Considered foremost beat poet and exemplified  
- Spoke out on controversial ideas – war, gay rights, drugs  
- Psychedelic – verse – meditation ------ Buddhism

**E.E. Cummings:**

**Years:** 1894 – 1962  
**Where:** New York/Paris  
**Period:** Modern

- Known for unique and personal grammar techniques – worked in context  
- Love and Religious poems deemed to be his best work  
- Gained credibility after people looked back on it

**Edgar Allan Poe:**

**Years:** 1809 – 1849  
**Where:** Baltimore  
**Period:** Romantic

- Originator of horror/detective fiction – major figure in world lit.  
- Dealt with depression/alcoholism/loss -- married 13 year old cousin, she died  
- Gothic themes --- found in the streets
**Langston Hughes:**
- **Years:** 1902 – 1967
- **Where:** New York
- **Period:** Harlem Renaissance

- Focus on AA life in America
- Innovator of Jazz Poetry – sounds like jazz
- Thinker founding members of HR

**Sylvia Plath:**
- **Years:** 1932 – 1963
- **Where:** Mass./England
- **Period:** Confessional Movement

- Revolves around “I”
- Married to fellow poet --- life of depression
- Killed herself

**Pablo Neruda:**
- **Years:** 1904 – 1973
- **Where:** Chile
- **Period:** Modern

- Political – member of communist party
- Love, loss, the sea, political manifestos
- PP – controversial – only in green ink (hope)

**Walt Whitman:**
- **Years:** 1819 – 1892
- **Where:** New York
- **Period:** Transcendentalist

- Mix of trans and realism
- Know for using free verse
- Involved with the Civil War – played a role in his poetry
**W.B. Yeats**

*Years:* 1865 – 1939  
*Where:* Ireland  
*Period:* Celtic Revival  

- Against nationalist movement in Ireland  
- Irish myth and folklore  
- Involved with politics in Ireland – always used traditional poetic forms

**Maya Angelou**

*Years:* 1928 – 2014  
*Where:* America  
*Period:* Contemporary  

- Autobiographical – raped as a child  
- Identity of AA in America  
- Power of women

**Billy Collins**

*Years:* 1941 – Present  
*Where:* New York  
*Period:* Contemporary  

- Jokester/charmer  
- Insight into everyday life  
- U.S. Poet Laureate

**William Wordsworth**

*Years:* 1770 – 1850  
*Where:* England  
*Period:* Romantic  

- Homesickness  
- Relationship with French woman – Fr. Revolution  
- Traveled
Names & Faces

Poet: _____________________________    Years: __________________
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March Madness of Poetry – Round 1

#1 - ______________________

MEANING: ____________________________________

#2 - ______________________

MEANING: ____________________________________

Choice: ______________________

#3 - ______________________

MEANING: ____________________________________

#4 - ______________________

MEANING: ____________________________________

#5 - ______________________

MEANING: ____________________________________

Choice: ______________________
#___ - ______________________

Meaning: ____________________________________

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Meaning: ____________________________________

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Meaning: ____________________________________

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Meaning: ____________________________________

Choice: ______________________

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**Meaning:** ____________________________________

**Choice:** ______________________
March Madness of Poetry – Round 2

#___ - ______________________

Meaning: ________________________________

Lit. Device: ___________ : ________________________________

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#___ - ______________________

Meaning: ________________________________

Lit. Device: ___________ : ________________________________

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Choice: ________________________________
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Lit. Device: _____________ : ___________________________________________
MARCH MADNESS OF POETRY – ROUND 3

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THESIS STATEMENT: ____________________________________________________________

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LIT. DEVICE: _____________ : ______________________________________________________________

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THESIS STATEMENT: ____________________________________________________________

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THESIS STATEMENT: ____________________________________________________________

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LIT. DEVICE: _____________ : ______________________________________________________________

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CHOICE: _______________________
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Lit. Device: ______________ : ____________________________________________________________
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Choice: ______________________
March Madness of Poetry – Round 4

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THESIS STATEMENT: __________________________________________________________
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LIT. DEVICE: _______________: _________________________________________________
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THESIS STATEMENT: __________________________________________________________
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LIT. DEVICE: _______________: _________________________________________________
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LIT. DEVICE: _______________: _________________________________________________
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CHOICE: ______________________
ROUND 2 – SCORECARD

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ROUND 2 – SCORECARD

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