Expanding the Canon Essay Rubric (Major Grade)

**(See unit handout for further directions on the project.)**

A Paper – This 3-page (double-spaced, size 12, Times New Roman - 4 pages hard limit) essay begins with a catchy hook and a detailed thesis that reveals how rhyme devices and figurative language help emphasize and develop an important theme in the poem. It advances a nuanced, sophisticated, and accurate reading of the poem.The short, frequent, embedded examples are apt and accompanied by thorough descriptions explicating a central theme. The conclusion extends to how the themes of the poem are relevant to society and the world today. The essay is organized, uses varied diction and is mostly error-free.

B Paper – This 2.5-3-page essay may or may not have an engaging hook, but the thesis is still clear, with reference to devices and theme. The essay is organized and has few errors, but the explanation of evidence may not be as thorough or sophisticated as the A paper. The conclusion still extends the relevance of the poem’s themes to today’s world.

C Paper – This essay is at least 2 pages and refers to devices and themes in the poem. The analysis might be brief, contain misinterpretations, or have little evidence from the poem. There might be redundancy and/or a number of grammatical errors. Still, the essay has some evidenced explanations of the poem’s theme(s).

F Paper – The essay might fall below 2 pages. Alternately, it may be so fraught with errors, misinterpretations, or vagueness that it lacks coherence or understanding of the poem’s themes and devices.

Essay grade\_\_\_\_\_Essay Feedback:

Expanding the Canon Presentation Rubric (Double Daily Grade)

A Presentation – This compelling presentation includes a dramatic read of the poem and a clearly articulated explanation of the poet’s background, along with the poem’s figurative language and rhyme devices and their effects on the poem’s tone and theme. The PPT is easy to read and engaging, with annotations clearly marked so as to help the audience understand what’s happening in the poem and where it’s happening. **Be aware that large lettering and good color contrasts are important for visibility on overhead** (black background with blue lettering not ideal, for instance).

1. Dramatic Read
2. Background on poet
3. Reference to both kinds of devices in the poem
4. Clear and audible
5. Engaging PPT with clearly marked annotations
6. Reasonable amount of content for 5-7 minute presentation.

B Presentation – This presentation still fulfills the requirements but one of the 5 elements above may be less clear or compelling.

C Presentation – This presentation fulfills most of the requirements but may be less clear or compelling on 2 of the 5 criteria listed above.

F Presentation – Half or more of the criteria listed above are seriously lacking or missing.

Questions/comments from teacher during presentation: