

POEM ANALYSIS QUESTIONS UNIT 1:

JAZZ

Suggested questions for reflection - small group discussion - class discussion

1. How is the idea of being a poet related to the idea of being a jazz musician?
2. There are elements of sound poetry in *Jazz*. What elements are used and why?
3. What attitude and tone does the poem express?
4. How might the poem change if Standard English were used throughout the poem, how might the tone and attitude be affected?
5. Read the information on the music references and listen to the music.
6. Why does the poet choose these two musicians to support the claim in the poem?

Connoisseur

Suggested questions for reflection - small group discussion - class discussion

1. Who is the speaker in this poem?
2. What words or phrases indicate the speaker's opinion of Billie Holiday?
3. What words or phrases indicate the speaker's opinion of Erykah Badu and Kendrick Lamar?
4. What requirements does the speaker in the poem have regarding classic blues as a genre and how does history and social injustice impact those requirements?
5. It has been said that Lamar's "It's Gonna Be Alright" is the anthem for the Black Lives Matter Movement. <http://slate.me/1IiuBP8> How might that relate back to the speaker's opinion of history and social injustice impacting the blues?
6. What is the tone of the poem?

A Tribute to Spike Lee

Suggested questions for reflection - small group discussion - class discussion

1. Identify personification in the poem and what impact it makes.
2. What is the effect of repetition and alliteration in the poem?
3. The poet weaves many of the titles of Spike Lee's earlier movies into the poem. What titles can you detect? Do the movie titles detract or add to the poem?
4. What does the line, "This is the kind of day too beautiful not to birth a revolution" mean in the context of the poem?
5. Allusions are used to add depth of understanding to a topic being discussed. There are several musical, cultural and cinematic allusions. Identify the allusions. Discuss how knowing the source of the allusion impacts the readers understanding of the topic.
6. What is the poet's attitude in this poem? What words and phrases indicate the poet's attitude in the poem?