

## POEM ANALYSIS QUESTIONS UNIT 6:

### DROWNING

#### Suggested questions for reflection - small group discussion - class discussion

1. **Format:** The poem consists of 14 unrhymed tercets. Discuss the format and what each stanza explores. Experiment with the number of lines in the stanzas, making some shorter or longer according to topic. Does it change the poem's tone, rhythm or imagery?
2. What is the impact of personification in the second and third stanza? Rewrite the stanzas without personification.
3. Discuss the tone, imagery and focus in the following stanza groupings: stanzas 1 – 4, stanzas 5 and 6, stanzas 7-9, stanzas 10-14.
4. Rose hips are the ripe ovaries or seeded fruit of roses forming on branches after the flower <http://bit.ly/28W4Kjw>. It has many medicinal uses and is often ingested in tea form. Is the last stanza a double entendre? What commentary is the last stanza making in regards to the title of the poem?
5. The alternate title for the poem is *Object Lesson #2*. What is an object lesson and how might the term apply to this poem?

### FIRE IN SAND

#### Suggested questions for reflection - small group discussion - class discussion

1. Why is it titled *Fire and Sand*? Consider what is being described.
2. **Tone:** The first two stanzas establishes the speaker's perception. What tone do the first two stanzas establish? What is the attitude of the person being described?
3. The speaker seems to be stuck in a conflicting situation. The situation is described with figurative language. Literally what is the conflict in stanzas three and four?
4. In the fifth stanza, what does the speaker decide to do? How do you know?

## WARNING SHOT

### Suggested questions for reflection - small group discussion - class discussion

1. **Shape Poem:** More than stanza breaks that indicate shifts in topics, poetry also uses line length and the aesthetics of how the poem looks on the page. A shape poem is a poem that takes on the shape of the subject of the poem. Consider the line lengths in the poem and the semblance of the shape of this poem. What does it indicate and why do you think this form is used? Rewrite the poem with all of the lines beginning at the left margin. Does the difference in the shape change the way the poem communicates the events in the topic? Explain. Use examples from the poem.
2. **Diction:** Which words indicate violence, tension or conflict in the poem? Explain.
3. Explain the last line of the poem.

## CLEMENCY

### Suggested questions for reflection - small group discussion - class discussion

1. In the first stanza toxic communication between two people is described with metaphors and personification. Discuss the description of the communication, its impact and the literary devices used.
2. **Diction:** The second stanza addresses the consequences of an action in the first stanza, both negative and positive. The words *sinkhole* and *ladder* refer to people outside of the events. What is the connotation of these two words?
3. **Format:** There is a shift in perspective in the second stanza. Where does it occur? Should the poem have three or more stanzas to indicate shifts in perspective? Why, why not? Explain.

## FIRST CODE OF A DRAGON SLAYER

### Suggested questions for reflection - small group discussion - class discussion

1. **Diction:** The actions of two mythological creatures are being described in the first stanza. What words describe the creatures and the conflict? Make a list of those words and explain the connections. Substitute the list of words with synonyms. Does it impact the tone?
2. **Alliteration:** What effect does alliteration have in the first seven lines of the second stanza? Explain.
3. **Rhyme, Diction and Tone:** Identify the words that rhyme or slant rhyme. Write them down and discuss the tone these words create. Why were these words chosen? As you analyze and explain the diction, substitute key words with synonyms to help support your opinion.
4. **Rhythm:** What impact does rhyme and slant rhyme have on the rhythm in the poem and the topic?
5. Read the poem without the third stanza. How does the third stanza inform the poem, what is its function?