**Guidelines for Critiquing Poetry**

First of all, read the poem silently—

Can you tell –

* Who is the speaker?
* What happens in the poem?
* Where is the “turn?”

Have the poet read their poem out loud.

Have each participant share their thoughts as they focus on one or more of the following:

* Begin by acknowledging the good points.
* What impressed you about the poem?
* What in the poem works?
* Which ideas or images could be expanded or trimmed to better focus the poem.
* Does the arrangement of the lines and stanzas work?
  + If not, suggest alternative line breaks or rearrangement of lines and/or stanzas.
* Can you find clichés, figures of speech or slang?

Point out examples of effective or ineffective

* assonance, consonance, alliteration, figurative language.
* metaphors or similes

Does the poem use abstract or concrete language?

* What suggestions can you make to help transform from abstract to concrete?

Are the rhythms in the poem effective, fitting, appropriate?

Is there good use of imagery? Use of the five senses? (Taste, touch, smell, see, hear)

Give examples.

Are the word choices appropriate? If not, make suggestions for alternatives.

How did you feel after you read the poem? What did it make you think about?