**Literary Letters During Poetry**

Now that we are studying the poetry genre, your letters will reflect this. Choose one poem that stands out from the poetry you have read this week. Be sure to **name the poem** and the **author** in your letter. Include a copy of the poem if you can!

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| --- | --- |
| Paragraph 1 | **Sound**-Describe the way the poet uses sound techniques in the poem.  Do certain sounds repeat? Alliteration, assonance?  Is there use of rhythm or rhyme?  Do certain words sound like their meaning? Onomatopoeia?  Does the poem have a tone? (serious, funny, curious, excited)  Give Examples! |
| Paragraph 2 | **Imagery**-Describe what you are able to visualize (or sense) and tell how the poet gets you to do that.  Give Examples! |
| Paragraph 3 | **Interpretation**-Tell what you think the poem means or why you think the poet wrote it. What was the poet’s purpose or message?  Give Text Evidence! |

**Sample Letter:**

March 11, 2015

Winter Eyes

Look at winter

With winter eyes

As smoke curls from rooftops

To clear cobalt skies

Breathe in winter

Past winter nose:

The sweet scent of black birch

Where velvet moss grows

Walk through winter

With winter feet

On crackling ice

Or sloshy wet sleet

Listen to winter

With winter ears:

The rustling of oak leaves

As spring slowly nears

By Douglas Florian

Dear Class,

One poem that stood out from the others I read this week is “Winter Eyes” by Douglas Florian. He uses many of the sound techniques that we have studied. He used alliteration when he put clear and cobalt in the same line and again with “sweet scent” and “black birch”. This is a rhyming poem. Every other line rhymes: eyes, skies, nose, grows. He uses words like *sloshy* and *crackling* that sound like their meanings. The poem also has a calm, serious tone that reminds me of a cold winter day.

Douglas Florian gets me to use my senses in this poem. When I read line 3 and 4- “smoke curls from rooftops to clear cobalt skies”, I can picture houses in a row with chimneys sending up curls of smoke. I see a bright blue sky and feel the cold air. When I read the lines about breathing in winter, I can almost smell the air scented with trees and burning fireplaces. In this poem, Douglas Florian has me using most of my senses.

I think Douglas Florian must like winter and want his readers to appreciate it the way he does. He wants us to experience it with all of our senses. He starts each stanza by telling us which sense to use and then paints a picture of what it is we should experience through that sense. At the end when he says “as spring slowly nears”, I think he wants us experience winter and know spring is right around the corner.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kosh