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# What is Poetry? Contrasting Prose and Poetry

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Read the two selections aloud once again, and follow the guiding questions below to explore the inquiry question. Use your copies of the selections for making annotations. Continue to read each text aloud several times as you consider the following:

1. Begin your discussion with your personal responses. What struck you? How did you react to each selection? What feelings were elicited by each?
2. Consider the titles of each. How are they different?
3. Paraphrase each selection. When considering the poem, determine the situation. What is happening?
4. Identify the speaker in each selection, and the speaker's relationship to the subject.
5. Consider the structure and syntax: How are the two texts different in terms of structure, length, organization, and punctuation?
6. How does each text sound when read aloud? How are they different?
7. Language: How is the language different? Word choice? Which is easier to read and understand? Why? Circle key words in each and use a dictionary to look up unknown words or words that may be used with unfamiliar meanings.
8. Can you visualize each selection? Talk about what you are able to visualize.
9. How does the author's purpose for writing each selection differ?

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## What is Poetry? Contrasting Prose and Poetry (continued)

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After thinking about each of these selections, what general descriptive statements can you make about poetry?

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