Poetry: Tips

- If you do not understand the meaning or ideas of the poem you are reading, you should **re-read** and **annotate** it.
  - Perhaps you have re -read and annotated, and **you still feel that you do not understand the poem. That's what the internet is for!** Sometimes you will not have the knowledge of the poet's life, or the events they may be drawing on to write the poem:
    - For example: in the poem "Daddy" by Sylvia Plath, she compares her father to a Nazi in many ways throughout the poem, but if you did not have prior knowledge of Nazis, you would miss a lot of references.
  - Use the internet to find the deeper meaning, but **don't always rely on it...it just has people's take on what the poem means (It's not always right)**
  - **If you find a good take on the poem on the internet, re-read the poem and see if it makes sense to you!**
- Another way to understand the meaning of poems, is to **find the lines of the poem that seem to have the most weight in them**.
  - Most weight meaning: **repetition, seem important to the title**
  - **Re-read those lines 5 times** and try to **look at it in different perspectives**
  - This strategy will help you analyze the poem to a completely different level!