

RECITATION PROJECT - 4TH QUARTER

The purpose of this project is threefold: 1) to practice public speaking skills, 2) to recognize interesting/well-known poetry or historical speeches, and 3) to develop valuable work habits such as long-term planning. You have several options from which to choose for your recitation project. The point value for each is indicated in parenthesis by the title. When you do your recitation, you must first **state the title and author of the selection**, as indicated. You will be graded according to the rubric I have shown you in class. If you do your recitation on or before **Thursday, April 22**, you will receive **5 extra credit points**; if it's done on or before **Friday, May 7**, you will receive **2 extra credit points**. The **FINAL** date for the project is **Thursday, May 13 - NO EXCEPTIONS**. This assignment counts as **1 test grade**. Once you have done the required recitation, you may do another one (of equal or lesser value) for an extra credit daily grade. The same deadlines apply for the extra credit recitation.

The Eagle (75 points)

- **Alfred, Lord Tennyson**

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ringed with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

The Dream Keeper (85 points)

- **Langston Hughes**

Bring me all of your dreams,
You dreamers,
Bring me all of your
Heart melodies
That I may wrap them
In a blue cloud-cloth
Away from the too-rough fingers
Of the world.

I'm Nobody! Who Are You? (85 points)

- **Emily Dickinson**

I'm nobody! Who are you?
Are you nobody, too?
Then there's a pair of us - don't tell!
They'd banish us, you know.

How dreary to be somebody!
How public, like a frog,
To tell your name the livelong day
To an admiring bog!

The Duel (85 points)

- **Emily Dickinson**

I took my power in my hand
And went against the world;
'Twas not so much as David had,
But I was twice as bold.

I aimed my pebble, but myself
Was all the one that fell.
Was it Goliath was too large,
Or only I too small?

The Base Stealer (100 points)

- **Robert Francis**

Poised between going on and back, pulled
Both ways taut like a tightrope walker,
Fingertips pointing to opposites,
Now bouncing tiptoe like a dropped ball
Or a kid skipping rope, come on, come on.
Running a scattering of steps sidewise,
How he teeters, skitters, tingles, teases,
Taunts them, hovers like an ecstatic bird.
He's only flirting, crowd him, crowd him,
Delicate, delicate, delicate, delicate - now!

Just Me (100 points)

- Margaret Hillert

Nobody sees what I can see,
For back of my eyes there is only me.
And nobody knows how my thoughts begin,
For there's only myself inside my skin.
Isn't it strange how everyone owns
Just enough skin to cover his bones?
My father's would be too big to fit -
I'd be all wrinkled inside of it.
And my baby brother's is much too small -
It just wouldn't cover me up at all.
But I feel just right in the skin I wear,
And there's nobody like me anywhere.

The Courage That My Mother Had (100 points)

- Edna St. Vincent Millay

The courage that my mother had
Went with her, and is with her still:
Rock from New England quarried;
Now granite in a granite hill.

The golden brooch my mother wore
She left behind for me to wear;
I have nothing I treasure more;
Yet, it is something I could spare.

Oh, if instead she'd left to me
The thing she took into the grave! -
That courage like a rock, which she
Has no more need of, and I have.

America the Beautiful (110 points)

- Katharine Lee Bates

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!