We have read the following poems this semester:

- “Song in the Front Yard”
- “The Lanyard”
- “Woman to Child”
- “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night”
- “Elegy for My Father, Who is Not Dead”
- “On My First Son”

Select one of the topics below and write an essay on it:

1. Select two of the poems that have similar tones. Then explain in an essay how the poems use **imagery and figures of speech** to convey that tone.

2. Examine the poems “Song in the Front Yard” and “The Lanyard.” Both poems depict relationships between mothers and children and provide insights into a child’s point of view. Explain in an essay how use of **imagery and figures of speech** portrays the child’s perception.

3. Compare and contrast the poems “Elegy for My Father Who is Not Dead” and “Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night.” In your essay explain how **imagery and figures of speech** contribute to the similarities and differences in the two poems.

4. Compare and contrast the poems “Woman to Child” and “On My First Son.” In your essay explain how **figures of speech, imagery, and characterization** contribute to the similarities and differences between the two poems.

Before you write your first draft, review my remarks from our discussions of these poems. Also, review the screencast videos. They should help you organize your thoughts. At the same time, remember that the intent of this assignment is not only to assess your writing skills but also to evaluate how well you can develop a claim about poetry and support that claim with evidence. The assignment is not intended to evaluate how well you can regurgitate the ideas mentioned in the screencast videos.

Be sure that your essay addresses one of the topics listed above. Your assignment is not simply to write a poem about one or more of the poems. Your main idea should apply to the topic above that you’ve chosen.

Your essay should not only address the topic you’ve chosen, but it should also meet the following criteria:

- It should include a clear main idea that identifies the topic and makes a claim about that topic.
- It should lead with a captivating hook and flow smoothly to the clear main idea.
- It should include several body paragraphs that provide evidence to support the main idea. Evidence should come from a close reading of the poetry.
- Its paragraphs should be logically arranged, and the ideas within paragraphs should be coherent and avoid repetition of ideas.
- Its content should reveal accurate comprehension of the poems.
- It should show evidence of careful editing and knowledge of the rules of standard English. It should also demonstrate adherence to the current guidelines of MLA documentation style, both in text and on the works cited page.
- It should be typed on a word processor and saved in a format that I can open: Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or Rich Text Format (.rtf).

Type your essay all in one document. Do not create a separate document for your works cited page. When you save your document, name it according to the guidelines on the syllabus: last name, first initial, name of assignment. Here’s an example: remlernpoetryessay.

Please note that I do not require that you look up secondary sources for this essay. However, if you choose to look up such sources, you may, and if you do so, I expect you to consult reliable, appropriate sources for a college level essay, and I expect you to cite them correctly in MLA style. If you wish to ask me about the sources you select, I’ll be glad to discuss them with you.
Take note of the following:

- It might take a few minutes to upload your essay to the dropbox. If you wait until 11:59 to submit your essay, you might not get it in by the deadline. Give yourself time to submit on time. I will not take late papers.
- Be sure you’re submitting the correct document. If you mistakenly upload the wrong essay, I must grade what I receive. I will not give you additional time to submit the correct document.
- Be sure you’re submitting a document I can open. If you forget to save your document as a Microsoft Word file (.doc or .docx) or in Rich Text Format (.rtf) I won’t be able to open that document, so I won’t be able to grade it. I will not give you additional time to submit the correct document.
- Sometimes students submit their essays, revise a little bit more, and then resubmit. If you decide to do so, you’ll have multiple documents in your dropbox folder. I will grade the most recent document you submit. Do not send me emails asking, “Please grade this one, not that one.” It’s up to you to organize your work.

Turn in the essay using the “Dropbox” tool in Desire to Learn (D2L). You should submit it in the “Poetry” folder no later than 11:59 PM, ET, Sunday, March 30th. You will be wise not to wait until the last second to submit. Give yourself a few minutes to work with the online tools, just in case you run into a few glitches.