

## **Narrative Poem Assignment**

due: Wednesday, 5/10

You must write a narrative poem in your poetry notebook. Poem should be written like a poem, not like a typical paragraph or essay.

### **Requirements:**

**\*Poem must be at least 25 lines in length (do not skip lines).**

**\*Poem must have two similes and two metaphors and one example of hyperbole, underlined.**

\* Label s, m, and h.

**\*Poem must tell a story.**

### **Characteristics of Narrative Poetry**

- Narrative poetry contains many of the same literary devices found in novels and short stories including plot, characterization, setting, conflict, tone, symbolism, dialogue, etc.
- The poet is neither the narrator nor a character in the story. The narrative is told from the point of view of a main character, a witness to the events in the story, or a person who is retelling a story he or she heard from another person.
- Like other forms of poetry, narrative poetry makes use of imagery, figurative language, and sound patterns (i.e. rhyme).
- Like other narratives, narrative poems usually begin with a description of the main characters or the setting.
- The main purpose of narrative poetry is to entertain, not to express the poet's thoughts or feelings.
- Narrative poems can be fictional or nonfictional. It can be related to historical or biographical events.

**This is how a poem is formatted. Note the difference between how a poem is written and how a paragraph below it is written.**

### **The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost**

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;  
Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,  
And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.  
I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

### **Analysis of "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost**

The speaker stands in the woods, considering a fork in the road. Both ways are equally worn and equally overlaid with un-trodden leaves. The speaker chooses one, telling himself that he will take the other another day. Yet he knows it is unlikely that he will have the opportunity to do so. And he admits that someday in the future he will recreate the scene with a slight twist: He will claim that he took the less-traveled road.