

English 12: British Literature and Composition

Sonnet Recitation assignment

Task:

You are a tutor for a tenth-grade student who is learning about sonnets in her English class. In order to grab the attention of this student who is not interested in English and who thinks that sonnets are for old-fashioned romantics, you must convey your appreciation and understanding of this complex, misunderstood art form by reciting an atypical sonnet for this tenth-grader.

Assessment Rubric:

The tenth-grader's teacher is completing an evaluation of your tutoring work to certify that you have earned community-service hours by assisting this student to become inspired and appreciative of literature. She will assess your recitation for the student based on the following qualities.

- **Fluency and pace (15 points)**
reciting at appropriate speed; speaking without pausing or being prompted
- **Accuracy (15 points)**
reciting the exact words with correct pronunciation and in proper order
- **Delivery (15 points)**
using appropriate volume, body language, and gestures while maintaining eye contact with audience
- **Understanding (15 points)**
conveying the theme and revealing meaning of the sonnet

Memorization Tips:

- Rewrite the sonnet by hand over and over. Each time, try to write more and more of it from memory.
- Read your sonnet aloud before going to sleep at night and repeat it when you wake up.
- Carry around a copy of your sonnet with you all day. You'll find several moments throughout the day to reread it or recite it.
- Practice your sonnet aloud by reading and reciting to family and friends.
- Rehearse with a partner who checks your accuracy.
- Recite your sonnet in the mirror, working on gestures, pace, and body language.