Strange how a teapot can represent at the same time the comforts of solitude and the pleasures of company. ~Author Unknown

"Each cup of tea represents an imaginary voyage." ~Catherine Douzel

"I always fear that creation will expire before teatime." ~Sydney Smith

"There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea." ~Henry James, The Portrait of a Lady

Next Class: Tea and scones will be served to celebrate your graduation from my British Literature class.

Return: Stobaugh $20.00 charge for failure to return the book.
Memorize: ___Your selections for Poetry Slam. Dress them up with your best performance techniques

Write: ___Paragraph applying HRLLP to books you have read.
Finalize: ___Any missing assignments from the last few weeks.
E-mail: ___Please e-mail me your two favorite poems which you authored.

Optional History:
Take: ___Modern Era Quiz

Performing Poetry

Spoken poetry was poetry for a long time. Poetry as words on a page is a comparatively recent development, and some of the world’s greatest literature originated in recitation handed down by word of mouth. That tradition has hardly survived in the English-speaking world, and performing poetry now means a) slam poetry integrated with improvisation and music as a type of performing art, and b) the reading of poetry out aloud in classroom, workshop or poetry reading.

Poetry Reading and Slam Poetry

The two conceptions are not radically different, and the elements of performance govern both. Primarily they are theatre, where the artist engages directly with the audience, and both require an outgoing personality and skills that cannot be learnt from books or the internet. Practice is essential, and the besetting sin of those who read their work in public is to suppose that clarity and a pleasant delivery are all that is required.

In fact the skills needed to perform poetry are as taxing as those required to write it, and it can be astonishing to hear what a trained voice can do with a very indifferent piece.

Some Suggestions:
1. Learn the basics of the actor’s trade: relaxation, breath control, articulation, voice projection and modulation. Do this as a positive daily workout if you’re on the poetry circuit, not as a chore left to the night before.
2. Rehearse the performance so thoroughly that the actual performance seems habitual and natural.
4. Memorize the pieces thoroughly so that your attention may be given to the performance and not to trying to remember the poem.
5. Leave nothing to chance. Think through how you make your entrance, what you will do with your hands, what props you will need, etc.
6. Know where you are on the list of performers.
7. Enjoy yourself. Have a good time, and the audience will too.

Evaluation Of Performance Criteria:
- Physical Presence and Posture
- Memorization
- Voice Projection and Articulation
- Appropriateness of selection
- Level of Difficulty
- Evidence of understanding
- Overall Performance

What IS a Poetry Slam?

Simply put, a poetry slam is the competitive art of performance poetry. It puts a dual emphasis on writing and performance, encouraging poets to focus on what they’re saying and how they’re saying it.

Officially- There is an organization - Poetry Slam Inc.

Who gets to participate in an official Poetry Slam?
The vast majority of slam series registered by Poetry Slam, Inc. are open to everyone who wishes to sign up and can get into the venue. Though everyone who signs up has the opportunity to read in the first round, the lineup for subsequent rounds is determined by the judges’ scores. In other words, the judges vote for which poets they want to see more work from.

What are the rules? (For an official "slam" not for Brit Lit Class)

Though rules vary from slam to slam, the basic rules are:
• Each poem must be of the poet’s own construction;
• Each poet gets three minutes (plus a ten-second grace period) to read one poem. If the poet goes over time, points will be deducted from the total score.
• The poet may not use props, costumes or musical instruments;
• Of the scores the poet received from the five judges, the high and low scores are dropped and the middle three are added together, giving the poet a total score of 0-30.

For more information go to poetryslam.com and find General FAQs