"What I believe to be incumbent upon all Christians is the duty of maintaining consciously certain standards and criteria of criticism over and above those applied by the rest of the world; and that by these criteria and standards everything that we read must be tested. We must remember that the greater part of our current reading matter is written for us by people who have no real belief in a supernatural order, though some of it may be written by people with individual notions of a supernatural order, though some of it may be written by people with individual notions of a supernatural order which are not ours. And the greater part of our reading matter is coming to be written by people who not only have no such belief, but are even ignorant of the fact that there are still people in the world so "backward" or so "eccentric" as to continue to believe. We shall certainly continue to read the best of its kind, of what our time provides; but we must tirelessly criticize it according to the principles admitted by the writers and by the critics who discuss it in the public press." (T.S. Eliot, Religion and Literature, 1935)

Fill Out: ___Class Assessment Form - Extra Credit for turning in this form!
Read: ___Finish Hound of the Baskervilles.
       ___Using Quotes Effectively @tabbnet.com/britlit Week 30
       ___Review Era of Sherlock Holmes on website. See "Write".

*Write: ___Choose two paragraphs from The Hound of the Baskervilles. Rewrite these paragraphs in the 3rd person, instead of the 1st person. Write a third paragraph telling me what impact this has on the paragraphs. Why did Conan Doyle write the story in the 1st person, through the eyes of Dr. Watson? Head your paragraphs with the Chapter # and Page # from which you took your paragraphs.
       ___Choose: a significant quote from Hound of the Baskervilles and bring to class. Be prepared to share why you chose it and why it is significant.
       ___After reading Era of Sherlock Holmes (below), write several paragraphs summarizing its information and answering the questions:
          1. Why is Holmes the perfect Hero for his age?
          2. Who is the perfect hero for our age and why?
       ___Finalize and turn in your 10 poems.

Recitation: ___5/23 you will be performing your poems. You have to perform ONE original and ONE poem by a British author (at least 50 words). Pay attention to your delivery of the poem. Read info. below.

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
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

**E-mail:** Please e-mail me your two favorite poems which you authored. This is a required, extra-credit assignment.