### Originality 1-4 points
- Writing is based on an original idea or uncommon theme.
- Writing includes certain elements of originality. For example, in a unique voice or unexpected element.

### Creative Expression 1-4 points
- Writing is expressive, including figurative language and detailed descriptions that engage the reader.
- Poet demonstrates understanding and uses a variety of poetic devices (alliteration, metaphor, simile, stanza, etc.).
- Line length and line breaks have been considered and contribute to the poem.
- Word choice is vivid and exact throughout.

### Overall Impact 1-4 points
- The writing demonstrates awareness of audience’s needs.
- The structure (length of stanzas and lines) and length of the poem work harmoniously with the content of the poem.
- The poem enables the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject in a new way or in a potent way.

### Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics 1-4 points
- There is one or no errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics.
- Punctuation is utilized appropriately or, if not used, is due to content/style choices, not errors.

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**Distinguished (4 points)**

- Writing is based on an original idea or uncommon theme.
- Writing includes certain elements of originality. For example, in a unique voice or unexpected element.

**Proficient (3 points)**

- Some evidence of original thought is present, but the writing is based on a common theme and does not include elements of originality.
- Writing includes some descriptive words and includes efforts at figurative language but needs improvement in order to engage the reader.
- Poem uses limited poetic devices and/or does not demonstrate a broad understanding of their use in poetry.
- Line length and/or line breaks seem rarely considered and do not contribute to the poem.
- Word choices may be vague, repetitive, and/or imprecise.

**Apprentice (2 points)**

- The writing feels like a retelling and has a common theme. Poem may be repetitive or feel rushed.
- Writing is very simple and lacks the creative enhancements needed to engage the reader.
- Poem uses no poetic devices or poet uses them ineffectively.
- Line length and line breaks do not seem to have been considered.
- Word choices are vague, repetitive, and imprecise.

**Novice (1 point)**

- The writing does not seem to have been considered.
- The structure (length of stanzas and lines) and length of the poem does not at all work with the content of the poem.
- The poem does not enable the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject. No poetic devices are used.

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