**Ekphrastic poetry: Creating art from art**

An *ekphrastic* poem is one that has a painting or other work of art as its subject.

*Ekphrasis* is poetry inspired by art. Over the next two days, you will write ***two*** poems that are inspired by art. The first poem will be using art that I have selected for you; the second will be done using art that you select. The primary requirement for your art is that it must come from an art museum. (I provide suggestions for sites below).

*Landscape with the Fall of Icarus* by William Carlos Williams



Here’s a famous example of an ekphrastic poem and the art that inspired it:

“The Fall of Icarus” by Pieter Brueghel

According to Brueghel insignifcantly

when Icarus fell off the coast

it was spring there was

a farmer was ploughing a splash quite unnoticed

his field this was

the whole pageantry Icarus drowning

of the year was

awake tingling

near

the edge of the sea

concerned

with itself

sweating in the sun

that melted

the wings' wax

**Write an ekphrastic poem** :

Using Google Images, pull up one of the following works of art: “The Scream” by Edvard Munch, “Café Terrace At Night” by Vincent Van Gogh, or “Siren with

Pine” or “In the Night” by Marc Chagall.

Study the painting and create a poem that is at least 15 lines long and contains *a minimum of 5 different poetic devices* (ie. alliteration, assonance, consonance, metaphor, allusion, simile, rhyme, imagery, onomatopoeia, symbolism, personification, repetition etc. ). *\*Type your work in Google Docs. Then download it into a Word document, and print it. Then* ***label your figurative language.*** *You will turn in both poems together but present one of them to the class.\**

You can use any of the following approaches to writing your poem:

• Write about the scene or subject being depicted in the artwork.

• Write in the voice of a person or object shown in the work of art.

• Write about your experience of looking at the art.

• Relate the work of art to something else it reminds you of.

• Imagine what was happening while the artist was creating the piece.

• Write in the voice of the artist.

• Write a dialogue among characters in a work of art.

• Speak directly to the artist or the subject(s) of the piece.

• Write in the voice of an object or person portrayed in the artwork.

• Imagine a story behind what you see depicted in the piece.

• Speculate about why the artist created this work.