**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. Today you will write a poem that is inspired by art. The poem will be using art that I have selected for you.

*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:

* *TheScream* by Edvard Munch,
* *Café Terrace At Night* by Vincent Van Gogh,
* *Siren with Pine*, or
* *In the Night* by Marc Chagall.

Study the painting and create a poem that is at least **20 lines long** and contains a **minimum of 5 different poetic devices** (ie. alliteration, assonance, consonance, metaphor, simile, rhyme, imagery, onomatopoeia, symbolism, personification, or repetition). The poem **does not** have to rhyme.

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.

*\*Proofread your work and save it to Google Docs. Then download it into a Word document, print it, and turn it in.*