

New York City College of Technology
ENG 2003: Introduction to Poetry
Dr. Nina Bannett

Group Discussion and Presentations on Three Sonnets:
Ada Limón and Rita Dove

New poetic term:

Alliteration-a poetic device in which identical consonant sounds are repeated in words that appear near each other. (These words usually have stressed syllables.)

Example of alliteration in Claude McKay's "America", line one:

"Although she feeds me **bread** of **bitterness**"

Today, you'll be working in small groups to analyze one of the three sonnets in detail. Each group will hand in written work at the end of class today, and will make a 5-7 minute presentation to the class about their analysis of their assigned poem. Your presentation is informal.

Groups 1 and 4: Ada Limón's "Instructions on Not Giving Up" (2015)

Groups 2 and 5: Rita Dove's "Persephone, Falling" (1995)

Groups 3 and 6: Rita Dove's "Found Sonnet: The Wig" (2016)

Each group should choose 1 person to be the note-taker; make sure that everyone in the group is named on your answer sheet. Each group should also have a point person who is willing to talk about the poem when we talk as a class.

Answer these questions in complete sentences and quote from the poem as necessary to support your answer. Put line numbers in parentheses.

1. What do you know about each poem's speaker?
2. What is the tone (emotion) conveyed in the poem-is it constant or does it change as the poem develops?
3. Identify two examples of alliteration in this poem and quote them, using MLA format. Explain how the alliteration works in your examples.
4. Identify one theme of this poem and give evidence to support your answer.

