Four Square Poetry Analysis-

Exploring the poem in depth: In your groups answer the questions and write the answers down on your paper to share with the class.

Imagery and Figurative Language:

(Figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. When a writer uses literal language, he or she is simply stating the facts as they are.)

Describing words?
Alliteration
Onomatopoeia
Metaphors
Similes
Vivid Language
Word Choice

- Why does the poet choose these words?
- What effect do they have on the overall poem?

Tone, Attitude:

- Words that give the feeling and emotion that the poet wants to express.
- Which words are chosen to create a mood/ feeling?
- Does the tone change in the poem?
- Is the poem satirical, ironic, thoughtful, sad, painful, happy, celebratory, funny?
- Word choice:
- Connotations- emotions attached
- Denotation- actual meanings of words.
- Why does the writer use the tone or feeling in the poem?

Style:

- What type of poem is this? Eg. Lyric, epic, narrative, haiku, free verse, prose, ekphrasis
- How many stanzas? Are they a particular type? Eg. Couplets, quatrains et al.
- Other considerations: Line length, line groupings, are there metric patterns, closed/open form
- Is there rhyme? A rhyme scheme?
- Note the unusual use of punctuation, or absence of it
- Why does the writer use these devices or forms?

Interpretation:

- What is the poet trying to say (message)?
- Who or what is the poem for?
- Was it written for a particular person?
- Is it about a historical event?
- An important event in the life of a person (birth, death, love, mental illness, change of heart, upheaval in their life)?
- Who is the narrator? Who is speaking and to whom? Under what circumstances is the narrator speaking?
- What does the poem mean to you? Can you relate to the feeling or to the events in the poem? What message, or feeling do you pull from the story/words/form of the poem?