

**WORKS IN PACKET**

“Cat in an Empty Apartment”  
 “Hatred”  
 “Here”  
 "In Praise of Self-Deprecation"  
 “An Interview with Atropos”  
 “Lots’ Wife”  
 “A Moment in Troy”

“No End of Fun”  
 “Psalm”  
 “Rubens’ Women”  
 “Suicide’s Room”  
 “Tortures”  
 “Two Monkeys by Brueghel”  
 “Vietnam”

**ACTIVITIES -- Use a different poem for EACH SECTION**

1. For 5 poems, write out a **detailed SOAPSTONE**: speaker, occasion, audience, purpose, structure (internal and external), and tone.
2. Read this Szyborska poem, “Some Like Poetry,” several times. Study its structure and meaning.

**Some Like Poetry** Translated by Regina Grol

Some —  
 thus not all. Not even the majority of all but the minority.  
 Not counting schools, where one has to,  
 and the poets themselves,  
 there might be two people per thousand.

Like —  
 but one also likes chicken soup with noodles,  
 one likes compliments and the color blue,  
 one likes an old scarf,  
 one likes having the upper hand,  
 one likes stroking a dog.

Poetry —  
 but what is poetry.  
 Many shaky answers  
 have been given to this question.  
 But I don't know and don't know and hold on to it  
 like to a sustaining railing.

In "Some Like Poetry," Szyborska takes the three words of her title and creates three stanzas exploring what each of these words means to her. Write a three-word sentence of your own and, following Szyborska's lead, use each word as a topic for a stanza. Try to imitate Szyborska's ironic tone. **Type up your poem.** DO NOT USE A HYPHEN INSTEAD OF A DASH: TWO HYPHENS = ONE DASH.

3. [http://info-poland.buffalo.edu/web/arts\\_culture/literature/poetry/szyborska/poems/link.shtml](http://info-poland.buffalo.edu/web/arts_culture/literature/poetry/szyborska/poems/link.shtml)

Look up this link. Select 2 poems not included in your packet, and write a TPCASTT.

4. Read these poems:

“Nothing Twice” (rock song)

“Calling out to Yeti”

"The Joy of Writing"

"The Terrorist, He's Watching"

"The End at the Beginning”

Respond in any authentic and meaningful artistic way to **one** of these poems (or any poem not used heretofore).

5. The following is a list of poetic elements Szymborska typically used in her poetry:

- a. Celebration of the miraculous qualities of the ordinary and seemingly insignificant events
- b. Concrete imagery and precise language, making her poetry a bit easier to translate than other poetry, but her puns and plays on words still elude translation
- c. Universality of meaning and experience
- d. Skepticism
- e. Sense of humor
- f. Socratic questioning by a naive questioner
- g. Stripping away of the cliché to reveal truths
- h. Frequently opens poems with a seemingly innocent question, then uncovers a series of harsh truths
- i. Expression of poetic joy in life’s miraculous potential, tempered by the speaker’s strong skepticism of easy solutions, and her acute awareness of suffering.

Write at least a 3-page analysis of Szymborska’s heretofore unused poems of your choice the packet, referring to the appropriate listed elements, a-i.

6. Compare and contrast at least two meaningful aspects of the 3 translations of “Rubens’ Women” (included in the packet). Write at least a 2-3-page analysis. Use the translators’ names. Do your own analysis.
7. Write out -- by hand, one line at a time per sheet of paper -- two Szymborska poems that **you have not used for any other part of this assignment**. After each line, write free-association responses, including art.

1. For 5 poems, write out a detailed SOAPSTONE 5 poems @ 7 pts. each = 35 pts.
2. As in "Some Like Poetry," 10 pts.
  - three words of her title
  - same three words begin stanzas exploring what each of these words means
  - ironic tone. **Type your poem.**
3. TPCASTT 2 poems not included in your packet (from web link) 10 pts.
4. Artistic response to one of these poems -- or any poem not used heretofore. 10 pts.
5. At least a 3-page analysis of Szyborska's poems of your choice the packet, referring to the listed elements, a-i. 25 pts.
6. Compare-contrast analysis of the 3 translations of "Rubens' Women." 2-3 pages. 10 pts.
7. Write out -- by hand, one line at a time per sheet of paper -- two Szyborska poems that **you have not used for any other part of this assignment.** After each line, write an extended response of free-association and art on the CONTEXT of the poem supports (as I demonstrated in class in May). 10 pts.

Score \_\_\_\_\_