# **ENDURING UNDERSTANDING:** Writers used stylistic devices to convey their philosophy.

Fishbowl Discussion on *Emily Dickinson's Poetry*.

#### THE TASK:

A fishbowl panel is a small group of students who prepare the same question in response to a prompt. They then discuss their answers as the class observes and takes notes.

As a participant in our fishbowl discussions, you will become 'experts' on particular poems and will have the opportunity to practice public speaking as you present and discuss your viewpoints in front of an audience. Also, your classmates will have the opportunity to learn from their peers.

#### **FOCUS:**

We have read several Dickinson poems while analyzing how the author's writing style, use of imagery and figurative language can create emotion and meaning. It is now your turn to apply this practice to open discussion. Your task is to explain how Emily Dickinson's writing style (form, themes, use of imagery, metaphor, and simile, etc.) do indeed create emotion and meaning in the following poems.

#### **GROUPS:**

| Group 1                             | Group 2                         |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| "I Never Saw a Moor"                | "Success Is Counted Sweetest"   |
| "The Bustle in a House"             | "I Taste a Liquor Never Brewed" |
| "Much Madness is Divinest Sense"    | "I Took My Power in My Hand"    |
| "'Faith' Is a Fine Invention"       | "Apparently with No Surprise"   |
| "'Hope' Is the Thing with Feathers" | "Exultation is the Going"       |

### THE RULES:

Your homework assignment is:

- 1. Read/Review your assigned reading, taking notes as you go along. Use the handout for assistance.
- 2. Think about the **imagery** in the poem. What images stand out to you? How do the images help create emotion/meaning? Are they pleasant or unpleasant? Also, consider the use of **metaphors and similes**.
- 3. Collect notes, including specific lines from the poem which support your planned statements.
- 4. Have line numbers ready for quick reference.
- 5. Be prepared for the class to follow along as they read passages as textual support. You may choose to use "post-it notes" to mark passages or type your ideas on a separate sheet. Go with what feels comfortable. Since the discussion is unrehearsed, organization of notes is necessary.
- 6. On \_\_\_\_\_\_, your group will engage in an unrehearsed discussion of your topic. The remainder of the class will observe silently and take notes. By the end of your 15 minute discussion, the people on the outside of the fishbowl should have a clear understanding of how the author's use of imagery and figurative language works to create emotion in your poems.

## **Assessment: 30 points**

Your grade will consist of the following:

- 1. Participation in the fishbowl Number of times and how well you participate in the discussion
- 2. Connection Do you clearly articulate and support your ideas?
- 3. Taking Notes

## **FISHBOWL NOTES:**

| Poem:                       |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Examples of Imagery         | Line Numbers: |
| Major Theme(s)              |               |
| Examples of Metaphor/Simile | Line Numbers: |
|                             |               |
| Poem:                       | Line Numbers: |
| Examples of Imagery         | Line Numbers. |
| Major Theme(s)              |               |
| Examples of Metaphor/Simile | Line Numbers: |