# **Examples of Lyric Poetry**

LYRIC POETRY: WRITERS EXPRESS THEIR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ABOUT A SUBJECT IN A BRIEF BUT MUSICAL WAY.

#### Elements of a Lyric Poem

- Sensory Detail and Words
- Connotation: the suggested emotions and associations of a word, beyond their plain dictionary meaning.
- Symbols
- Figurative Language

### Winter by William Shakespeare

When icicles hang by the wall And Dick the shepherd blows his nail And Tom bears logs into the hall And milk comes frozen home in pail, When blood is nipp'd and ways be foul, Then nightly sings the staring owl, Tu-whit; Tu-who, a merry note, While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

# Winter by William Shakespeare

When all around the wind doth blow And coughing drowns the parson's saw And birds sit brooding in the snow And Marian's nose looks red and raw, When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl, Then nightly sings the staring owl, Tu-whit; Tu-who, a merry note, While greasy Joan doth keel the pot

### The Dark Hills by Edwin Arlington Robinson

Dark hills at evening in the west, Where sunset hovers like a sound Of golden horns that sang to rest Old bones of warriors underground, Far now from all the bannered ways Where flash the legions of the sun, You fade –as if the last of days Were fading, and all wars were done

# Meeting at Night by Robert Browning

I

The gray sea and the long black land;
And the yellow half-moon large and low;
And the startled little waves that leap
In fiery ringlets from their sleep,
As I gain the cove with pushing prow,
And quench its speed I' the slushy sand.

 $\Pi$ 

Then a mile of warm sea-scented beach;
Three fields to cross till a farm appears;
A tap at the pane, the quick sharp scratch
And blue spurt of a lighted match,
And a voice less loud, through its joys and fears,
Than the two hearts beating each to each!

#### I Hear an Army by James Joyce

I hear an army charging upon the land,

And the thunder of horses plunging, foam about their knees:

Arrogant, in black armor, behind them stand, Disdaining the reins, with fluttering whips, the charioteers.

They cry unto the night their battle-name: I moan in sleep when I hear afar their whirling laughter. They cleave the gloom of dreams, a blinding flame,

Clanging, clanging upon the heart as upon an anvil.

# I Hear an Army by James Joyce

They come shaking in triumph their long, green hair:

They come out of the sea and run shouting by the shore.

My heart, have you no wisdom thus to despair?

My love, my love, my love, why have you left me alone?