

Application Essay

Must be handwritten and uploaded to the online application before submission. Application Deadline is March 15 of the year applied for.

Read the poem carefully. Then, in a well-written essay propose and defend an interpretation of an idea or universal truth conveyed by the poem.

A well-written essay includes the following:

1. An arguable assertion or statement about an implicit truth or idea suggested by the sounds and meanings of the words on the page. DO NOT merely summarize, paraphrase, or rewrite the entire poem "in your own words."
2. Carefully selected evidence from the poem—words and phrases, literary devices (simile, metaphor, alliteration, rhyme, meter, etc.) to support your interpretation. Your evidence will be comprised of direct quotations, when the precise and exact words make your point more convincing, and short paraphrases of lines that are relevant to your interpretation.
3. Thorough explanations of how the evidence supports your interpretation. Each quote or paraphrase should be incorporated into your own sentence explaining its relevance to your argument.
4. A conclusion that makes a logical connection between your proven interpretation and a related idea also evident in the poem and supporting evidence from it for the connection you are making. Be sure that your conclusion IS NOT a summary or reiteration of the evidence already presented in the body of the essay.

Reread and revise your essay looking first for weaknesses in logic, in your evidence, and in your expression or word choices. Do your ideas flow logically and smoothly, from one point to the next?

Reread it again to look for errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Shakespeare, Sonnet 73

That time of year thou mayst in me behold
When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,
Bare ruin'd choirs, where late the sweet birds sang.
In me thou see'st the twilight of such day
As after sunset fadeth in the west,
Which by and by black night doth take away,
Death's second self, that seals up all in rest.
In me thou see'st the glowing of such fire
That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,
As the death-bed whereon it must expire,
Consum'd with that which it was nourish'd by.
This thou perceiv'st, which makes thy love more strong,
To love that well which thou must leave ere long.