Poetry Project

Due:

"If there would be a recipe for a poem, these would be the ingredients: word sounds, rhythm, description, feeling, memory, rhyme, and imagination. They can be put together a thousand different ways, a thousand, thousand... more." - Karla Kuskin

The poetry project consists of two elements – reading and writing. All final poems and responses to poetry must be typed. All parts of this project are to be stapled together along with a cover page which contains the title of the project, your name and the date.

Reading Element

If you are to become a better poet you must not only write a lot of poetry, but read it and understand it as well. In addition to the poems we read in class you must read and respond to ten other poems that you will find outside of class.

Each poetry response should include:

- A copy of the poem
- An analysis which may include comments about —
  - Figurative language
  - Rhyme scheme
  - Structure
  - Language
  - Symbolism
- Your opinion about the poem —
  - What works in this poem?
  - What doesn’t work?
  - What, if anything, would you have done differently?

Each response should be about 300 words, typed and double-spaced. One source for finding poems is http://www.loc.gov/poetry/180/.
Writing Element

In addition to the poetry prompts assigned in class, you are to also write your own poetry. For this project you must submit 15 poems, selected in the following way—

- Five generated from prompts given in class
- Five completely original poems written on your own
- Five more from either of the above categories

Your poems will be graded based on the following criteria—

- Grasp of figurative language (alliteration, metaphor, simile, onomatopoeia, etc)
- Understanding of different poetic structures (include at least three different types ie sonnet, concrete, free verse, ballad, etc)
- Creativity (Is it original? Or filled with clichés?)
- Effort to improve (Have you learned from workshops? Made an effort to make your poetry stronger?)
  - At least one poem needs to be shown in workshop
  - This poem, plus four more out of the fifteen, must include a rough draft along with your final copy. The rough draft may be written or typed. Either way it must include marks indicating what you have changed.