What is Slam Poetry?
Slam Poetry is an art form that blends poetry, performance, and competition to create a literary relationship with the audience. Slam poetry is a term that describes a style of spoken word poetry composed to be performed in front of a live audience, often in a competitive arena.

What is a Poetry Slam?
A poetry slam is the actual performance or event that features slam poets. Five judges from the audience (who are picked randomly and preferably do not have a personal connection to any of the competing poets) are given score cards to score each poem based on content, originality, and performance on a scale of 1-10 (decimal points may be used to avoid ties).

Content and Style
- Content: slam poetry can be about anything the writer is passionate about, from personal narratives to social observation, and often include a combination of themes.
- Style: poets use literary devices (such as metaphor, simile, alliteration, and word play) to tell their three-minute stories.

Examples
#1: Touchscreen ([https://youtu.be/GAx845QaOck?t=3s](https://youtu.be/GAx845QaOck?t=3s))
#2: Copse ([https://youtu.be/zvne-JEMf8g](https://youtu.be/zvne-JEMf8g))

Reflection Questions
- What examples of word play do you notice in Example #1: Touchscreen?
- What do you notice about audience response in Example #1: Touchscreen?
- The artist featured in Example #2 is an Atlanta-area artist. Ask her anything – email your inquiry to liz.davis@alliancetheatre.org and it will be shared with the poet for possible response.

Writing Prompts
#1: What is your favorite hobby? Compose a poem about that hobby and utilize as much word play as possible to describe the activity.

#2: Personification is a poetic device that attributes human emotions and characteristics to inanimate objects. Compose a poem that personifies an object related to current events connected to the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, what would hand sanitizer say to people who bought more than they need? What would the empty arcade, amusement park, or skating rink say?

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