Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Read the following poems and answer the questions.

# The Courage That My Mother Had by Edna St. Vincent Millay

The courage that my mother had

Went with her, and is with her still:

Rock from New England quarried;

Now granite in a granite hill.

The golden brooch my mother wore (5) **Brooch: a decorative pin (jewelry)**

She left behind for me to wear;

I have no thing I treasure more:

Yet, it is something I could spare.

Oh, if instead she'd left to me

The thing she took into the grave! (10)

That courage like a rock, which she

Has no more need of, and I have.

1. What happened to the speaker’s mother?
2. What did she leave behind for her daughter?
3. What did her daughter wish that she had instead?
4. Which would you have rather received? WHY?

Use the following information to help you understand William Shakespeare’s “Macbeth.”

*Macbeth was a general in the Scottish army. One day when he is traveling, he meets three witches. The witches make the prediction that he will become THANE (like a prince) and then later become the KING of Scotland. He ignores their prediction. However, because of his success in the military, he is made Thane. He then becomes intrigued with the idea that the rest of the prediction will come true…and of course, who wouldn’t want to be KING? He then tells his wife about the witches and their prediction. She hears the story and become very excited because she could then be QUEEN! She insists that the only way it will happen is to kill the present king.*

*They both are consumed with becoming King and Queen, so Macbeth agrees to commit murder. But then, he and his wife are driven mad by the guilt. Lady Macbeth (his wife) commits suicide and Macbeth is left all alone…*

Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,

Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,

To the last syllable of recorded time;

And all our yesterdays have lighted fools

The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle! (5)

Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player,

That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,

And then is heard no more. It is a tale

Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, (9)

Signifying nothing.

1. How do you suppose Macbeth is feeling when he says, “Tomorrow, AND tomorrow, and TOMORROW?
2. Macbeth talks of blowing out a candle (line 5). He does not mean this literally. What does he actually mean?
3. What does Macbeth feel that his life is worth (line 10)?
4. Why does he feel that way?

**Review for Poetry Test:**

The ENTIRE test is short answer, so be sure to study every poem.

1. “How to Eat a Poem” by Eve Merriam (handout)
2. “Legacies” by Nikki Giovanni (handout)
3. “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” by William Wordsworth (pages 897 and 898)
4. “Sympathy” by Paul Laurence Dunbar (page 292)
5. “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost (page 188)
6. “Slam, Dunk & Hook” by Yusef Komunyakaa (page 228)
7. “Shoulders” by Naomi Shihab Nye” (page 232)
8. “There Will Come Soft Rains” by Sara Teasdale (page 473)
9. “Fire and Ice” by Robert Frost (page 472)
10. “Dreams” by Langston Hughes (page 905)
11. “Dream Deferred” by Langston Hughes (page 904)
12. “The Courage My Mother Had” by Edna St. Vincent Millay (handout)
13. “Tomorrow” by William Shakespeare (handout)
14. Haiku (pages 956 and 957)
    * **Be prepared to write a haiku**
    * **Be able to explain the meanings of the above poems**
15. In Eve Merriam’s poem “How to Eat a Poem”, she writes that there is “nothing to throw away.” What does she mean?
16. What did the grandmother want to teach her granddaughter in the poem “Legacies”?
17. Why didn’t the little girl want to learn?
18. In “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” by Wordsworth, what does the speaker say happens when he is alone in a “pensive mood”? HINT: it is in the last stanza of the poem.
19. According to Dunbar, why does the caged bird beat his wing until it’s bloody?
20. How is Dunbar like the “caged bird”?
21. What two options does the speaker face in the poem, “The Road Not Taken”? What are these options symbolic of?
22. At the end of the poem, which option, or path, does the speaker take? How does he feel about the choice that he made?
23. What is the man carrying across the street in the poem, “Shoulders” by Naomi Shihab Nye?
24. According to the poet, what will animals do after the war is over? This question comes from the poem, “There Will Come Soft Rains”.
25. What are the rules for writing a haiku?
26. In the poem, “Fire and Ice”, Frost believes the world will either end in fire or ice. What are fire and ice symbolic of?
27. What is one example of what can happen if we put our dreams off, according to Langston Hughes?