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| **“Poetry”**  by Pablo Neruda  And it was at that age ... Poetry arrived in search of me. I don't know, I don't know where it came from, from winter or a river. I don't know how or when, no they were not voices, they were not words, nor silence, but from a street I was summoned, from the branches of night, abruptly from the others, among violent fires or returning alone, there I was without a face and it touched me.  I did not know what to say, my mouth had no way with names, my eyes were blind, and something started in my soul, fever or forgotten wings, and I made my own way, deciphering[[1]](#footnote-1) that fire, and I wrote the first faint line, faint, without substance, pure nonsense, pure wisdom of someone who knows nothing, and suddenly I saw the heavens unfastened and open,  planets, palpitating[[2]](#footnote-2) plantations, shadow perforated[[3]](#footnote-3), riddled with arrows, fire and flowers, the winding night, the universe.  And I, infinitesimal[[4]](#footnote-4) being, drunk with the great starry void, likeness, image of mystery, felt myself a pure part of the abyss, I wheeled with the stars, my heart broke loose on the wind. | **Directions:**  We will read this poem twice – once aloud and once silently.  As you read silently, annotate the following:   * **Images** that attract your attention * **Repetition** * **Verb Choice** * **Form** – organization or structure of a work * **Anaphora** – repetition of a word at the beginning of a phrase or clause.   For Neruda, what is poetry?  For you, what is poetry?  Do you see any similarities/differences between your and Neruda’s perspective? What are they? |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Powell)

1. **deciphering**: figuring out the meaning of something that’s not clear. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **palpitating:** pulsating or throbbing rapidly [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **perforated**: pierced with holes [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **infinitesimal**: so small as to be almost nothing [↑](#footnote-ref-4)