

**DIRECTIONS:** Using the annotation instructions on the board/handout, read and analyze the following 3 poems. Be sure to look up words and references and make detailed notes in the margins.

## [in Just-]

by e.e. cummings

in Just-  
spring        when the world is mud-  
luscious the little  
lame balloonman

whistles        far        and wee

and eddieandbill come  
running from marbles and  
piracies and it's  
spring

when the world is puddle-wonderful

the queer  
old balloonman whistles  
far        and        wee  
and bettyandisbel come dancing

from hop-sotch and jump-rope and

it's  
spring  
and

the

goat-footed

balloonMan        whistles  
far  
and  
wee

# Spring

by Gerard Manley Hopkins

When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;  
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush  
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring  
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;  
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush  
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush  
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?

A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning  
In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,  
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,  
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,  
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

# Spring

by Edna St. Vincent Millay

To what purpose, April, do you return again?  
Beauty is not enough.  
You can no longer quiet me with the redness  
Of little leaves opening stickily.  
I know what I know.  
The sun is hot on my neck as I observe  
The spikes of the crocus.  
The smell of the earth is good.  
It is apparent that there is no death.  
But what does that signify?  
Not only under ground are the brains of men  
Eaten by maggots.  
Life in itself  
Is nothing,  
An empty cup, a flight of uncarpeted stairs.  
It is not enough that yearly, down this hill,  
April  
Comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers.

# Annotation Notes and Instructions for Poetry

First off, understand poetry can be difficult to understand and interpret. The nature of the poetry can make it challenging, so always do your best, but KNOW that you will need to work hard to “get” at their meanings.

**Step 1: Read the poem all the way through without making notes or anything.**

**Step 2: Read the poem again, looking for and marking words you do not know/understand and LOOK THEM UP!**

*Remember, some words have multiple meanings; make sure you use the right one!  
When in doubt, right down the top 2 or 3 and figure it out later!*

**Step 3: Look for and mark any references the poet makes that you do not know. Then, LOOK THEM UP!**

These are called **allusions** and the writer expects you to know them. Help them and yourself with this step. Learn something new!

**Step 4: Mark any connections made in the poem. This can be repetition of words, symbols, images or references.**

Repetition means that something is important and the writer wants you to see it.

**Step 5: Explain lines/pieces of the poem in your own words to make it easier to understand.**

Breaking it apart can help you understand the pieces to better understand the whole thing.

**Step 6: Read the WHOLE POEM again to put the pieces you understand together to understand the whole thing.**

***Don't be afraid to ask questions or get help!***

***It's how we learn!***