

Name:

Period:

## Line Breaks and White Spaces

1. Read the following poem

- (1) Weeping Willow  
(2) Lonesome  
(3) Trees  
(4) Sit in the pale morning light,  
(5) Guarding the shores of a  
(6) Peaceful pond.  
(7) A hazy mist hangs  
(8) Over the trees and the dew-covered grass  
(9)       Like a veil  
(10) Faintly,  
(11)        In the distance,  
(12) The howl a dog and the mellow  
(13) Trickling  
(14) Of a stream  
(15) Echoes                echoes  
(16) Through the  
(17) Empty  
(18) Valley.
- (19) I sit in the midst  
(20) Of the saddened trees  
(21) Wondering why  
(22) They mourn.



2. The placement of the lines and white spaces in a poem can change the tone and meaning of a poem. Look back over the poem above and **circle** any interesting formatting that you see in the poem. (Look for lines that stand out based on their placement).

3. Look at the following lines more closely and write down your ideas on why the poet chose to place these lines like he did.

Line 11: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Line 15: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. **Directions:** Each of the following sentences are lines for a poem that I have blended together. Using the space provided, split up the sentences to create an interesting poem using your own formatting ideas. (If you need more space, you may work on a separate piece of paper).

A) In the morning a little bird that has no name flies westward pulling away the dark blanket of the night.

B) Our family is a quilt of odd remnants patched together in a strange pattern, threads fraying, fabric wearing thin—but made to keep its warmth even in bitter winter.

C) The little boy bounded onto the trampoline and leapt up like a firecracker erupting in the sky before falling back down onto the giving elastic landing beneath him.

D) Open your poetry folder and pull out your “Identity” response worksheet and find your “Freedom/Entrapment is...” poem on the back of your worksheet. Copy down either your “Freedom” or “Entrapment” poem below, spacing out the lines in a more interesting way to add meaning to your poem.