

Name:

Sophomore English Honors

**Poem of the week #4:** Aunt Jennifer's Tigers, Adrienne Rich

**Due:** Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> -- Poem must be turned in with your essay!

### **Directions**

**Overview:** Read the poem first to enjoy it. Read it straight on through, preferably aloud. Then read it again (and again), looking for any of the following literary devices or features:

- Language: tone, style, diction (word choice)
- Conventions: punctuation, grammar
- Devices: imagery, metaphor, symbols, repetition, etc.
- Design: structure, organization (stanzas. Layout of stanzas)
- Themes: ideas that run throughout the poem
- Connections: Does the poem connect or allude to literature, history, popular culture, art, etc.?
- Purpose: Is the poet trying to explain? Define? Persuade? What, why, and how do they do this?

### **Close Reading:**

- ✓ You *must* show evidence of close reading – for example, underlined words, comments, questions, connections, suspected patterns.

**Essay:** write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the poet uses language to describe the scene and to convey mood and meaning.

- ✓ You must *word-process/type a small analysis essay* regarding the poem. Your response must strive to be a grammatically correct essay (not a loosely written journal-type response) with a clear assertion, supporting details, and examples or quotations from the poem embedded within your sentences.
- ✓ Your paragraph must include quotations from the poem. These quotations must be embedded, not left to stand alone.

Aunt Jennifer's Tigers  
by Adrienne Rich (1929-)

Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,  
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.  
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;  
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

Aunt Jennifer's finger fluttering through her wool  
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.  
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band  
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie  
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.  
The tigers in the panel that she made  
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.