Instructions: Read each poem thoroughly first. Remember to read the poem for its punctuation so that it makes sense. Then, answer the questions that follow. You should use your highlighters to mark each of your supporting examples/answers in the poems, where applicable, and label your examples in the space to the right of the poems. Feel free to use your “Literary Elements” handout.

“Eating Poetry” by Mark Strand
Ink runs from the corners of my mouth.
There is no happiness like mine.
I have been eating poetry.

The librarian does not believe what she sees.
Her eyes are sad
and she walks with her hands in her dress.

The poems are gone.
The light is dim.
The dogs are on the basement stairs and coming up.

Their eyeballs roll,
their blond legs burn like brush.
The poor librarian begins to stamp her feet and weep.

She does not understand.
When I get on my knees and lick her hand,
she screams.

I am a new man.
I snarl at her and bark.
I romp with joy in the bookish dark.

1. What imagery is present in this poem? (Describe the mental picture you have for two separate scenes.)

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2. From what point of view is this poem written? _______________________________________

3. Identify (highlight and label to the right) an example of hyperbole. What effect does this exaggeration have on the poem?

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4. How many stanzas are in this poem? _______________________________________________
“If” by Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too:
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don’t deal in lies,
Or being hated don’t give way to hating,
And yet don’t look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream---and not make dreams your master;
If you can think---and not make thoughts your aim,
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you’ve spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build ’em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings,
And never breathe a word about your loss:
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: “Hold on!”

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings---nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much:
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds’ worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that’s in it,
And---which is more---you’ll be a Man, my son!

1. What is the theme (the overall message or moral) of this poem?
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2. Identify (with your highlighter) and label an example of personification.
3. Who is speaking in this poem and to whom is this person speaking?
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4. Explain how this poem could be considered one big example of pathos. In this case, the appeal is being made to the unnamed character to whom the main character is speaking (as identified in #3).
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"It Couldn't Be Done" by Edgar Albert Guest

Somebody said that it couldn’t be done
But he with a chuckle replied
That “maybe it couldn’t,” but he would be one
Who wouldn’t say so till he’d tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn’t be done, and he did it!

Somebody scoffed: “Oh, you’ll never do that;
At least no one ever has done it;”
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat
And the first thing we knew he’d begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn’t be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure,
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing
That “cannot be done,” and you’ll do it.

1. The word *quiddit* is no longer in use, but it is synonymous with trickery, so he’s saying that the man set to work without any doubt in his ability and without the use of tricks to help him accomplish the task at hand. However, poetry takes the sounds of words into consideration, as well. Consider how the word *quiddit* sounds. What other meaning could you give this line?

2. Identify (highlight and label to the right) an example of *personification* from the first four lines of stanza three. Describe the mental image that you have when you think about this example.

3. How is the author’s repeated use of the word “somebody” an archetype? Who is “somebody”? Explain/defend your answer.
“Exquisite Candidate” by Denise Duhamel and Maureen Seaton
I can promise you this: food in the White House
will change! No more granola, only fried eggs
flipped the way we like them. And ham ham ham!
Americans need ham! Nothing airy like debate for me!
Pigs will become the new symbol of glee,
displacing smiley faces and "Have A Nice Day."
Car bumpers are my billboards, billboards my movie screens.
Nothing I can say can be used against me.
My life flashes in front of my face daily.
Here’s a snapshot of me as a baby. Then
marrying. My kids drink all their milk which helps the dairy industry.
A vote for me is not only a pat on the back for America!
A vote for me, my fellow Americans, is a vote for everyone like me!
If I were the type who made promises
I'd probably begin by saying: America,
relax! Buy big cars and tease your hair
as high as the Empire State Building.
Inch by inch, we’re buying the world's sorrow.
Yeah, the world’s sorrow, that's it!
The other side will have a lot to say about pork
but don’t believe it! Their graphs are sloppy coloring books.
We're just fine—look at the way
everyone wants to speak English and live here!
Whatever you think of borders,
I am the only candidate to canoe over Niagara Falls
and live to photograph the Canadian side.
I’m the only Julliard graduate—
I will exhale beauty all across this great land
of pork rinds and gas stations and scientists working for cures,
of satellite dishes over Sparky’s Bar & Grill, the ease
of breakfast in the mornings, quiet peace of sleep at night.

1. Identify the allusion to danger and a willingness to take chances in life, mark it with your highlighter, and label it out to the side. What effect does this allusion have on your perception of this candidate?

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2. Identify the allusion to childhood games; mark it with your highlighter and label it out to the side. What effect does this allusion have on your perception of the “other side”?

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3. Find another allusion of your choosing and highlight it. Identify what it is an allusion to in the open space to the right of the poem. A) What effect does this allusion have on the rest of the poem?

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B) Why’d you choose it?
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C) What images are conjured up by this allusion?
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