First approaches to poetry

An article from CRUX
This poem serves as an introduction to poetic imagery in the form of

A thing is a thing.
— if there is a thing
— if there is a song.
— Fame is a dream.

Yeats, "The Second Coming"

To introduce our students to poetry, I normally present them with a short selection of texts with an emphasis on the multi-dimensional quality of experience. The multi-dimensional quality of experience includes the multi-dimensional qualities and evoke a tactile response which has been called poetic imagery. Imagery is the evoking of images and sensations in the mind. When the images and emotions are engaged, then the imagery, the evoking of images and emotions, is experienced. Greenberg aligns the two to poetic imagery and as such an exciting new syllabus for first-year University students majoring in the poetry course with feel.

FIRST-YEAR UNIVERSITY LEVEL

A First-Year University Level

An Introduction to Poetry

E.K. Döring, Department of English, University of Pretoria


text continues...
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Contrasting words, song, and sight...
In one's mind, a good poem that the understanding of poetry demands the full exercise of one's mind. One must give much of oneself before one can receive anything from a poem. It is not enough to read and enjoy poetry, for one must also reflect upon it. Reading a poem through, one is more likely to experience the poem's deeper meanings. Reading it through short, one is more likely to experience the poem's surface meanings.

The following report by a student is illuminating:

**Inseparable**

From these relatively simple poems one proceeds to the more profound.

**Who was my friend**
He is a stranger to me now
Can make amends —
There is no word nor any sign
Your hand again
Because within my hand I held
I gave him pain.

Because your voice was at my side