

MODERN POETRY

Coordinator: Anthony Piccolo

The study group engages in the shared oral recitation and study of modern and contemporary poems which dramatize the challenges of adulthood: the pressures of “growing up,” the traditional rites of passage, the strains of intimacy, the resistance to, and compliance with, moral authority and conventional perspectives on “happiness.” There is an essential need to recognize in the voices of other adults a common humanity. Experienced adulthood is an optimum state in which to appreciate both the directness and subtlety of most modern poetry: its honest language, its private opposition to prevailing attitudes, and the new recognition of one’s self at every stage of growth. Finding sense in the texts depends on willingness to explore, to consider, and to discuss various points of view as expressed in the readings. Though “sharing” of relevant personal material is encouraged, no member should feel pressured to do so.

Reading Materials: Coursepack, estimated \$12.

Anthony Piccolo is Professor Emeritus of English and American Literature (Manhattanville College). B.A. from Dartmouth; M.A. and PhD. from N.Y.U. Has co-ordinated poetry groups at IRP.

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Poems for the group will be gathered in a course-pack by the coordinator and will be on sale for about \$12 at Advanced Copy Center, 522 La Guardia Place, NYC.

Meetings (tentative)

- #1 Introduction: Wright, Stafford, Levine, Field
- #2 Dunn, Voigt, Appleman, McHugh, Levertov
- #3 Walcott, Kinnell, Nye, Hoffman, Mezey
- #4 Thomas, Mueller, Irwin, Rich, Barrax
- #5 Neruda, Kennedy, O’Rourke, Fleury
- #6 Bell, Olds, Hirshfield, Strand, Corso
- #7 Wilbur, Lux, O’Hara, Hodges, Collins
- #8 Whitman, Clifton, Ryan (Submit your Selections)
- #9 Dickey, Auden, Hall, Creedon, Knott, Gluck
- #10 Schultz, Carver, Adamshick, Addonizio,
- #11 Simpson, Violi, Wunderlich, Plath
- #12 Your Selections in Class (Conclusion)