**Elegy**

*Elegy* is a form of poetry which is used to discuss a person who had passed away. *Elegy* presents the deceased person in a positive light. The end of *Beowulf* has an elegiac tone, lamenting the loss of the great leader Beowulf.

**Elegy**: a song or poem expressing sorrow or lamentation especially for one who is dead (written in couplets)

**Couplet**: a style of poetry defined as a complete thought written in two lines with rhyming ends.

**Characteristics:**
- Expression of feelings, especially love
- The poem (a) starts with an explanation of why or when it is being written, and ends with a return to the speaker's situation.
- The poem expresses not merely grief, but a sense of shock and anger because (a) the death was premature, pointless, or otherwise "unnatural" and/or (b) the person who died was so special.
- The speaker establishes a relationship with the person being mourned, usually by telling about their time together. In traditional English elegies, the conventions of the pastoral are often used for this purpose, that is, both speaker and subject are said to be shepherds, etc.
- The speaker indicates how the person died and uses the material of the means of death, e.g., drowning, as a source of imagery in the poem.
- The speaker tries to reject the fact of the death or to seek supernatural aid to bring the dead person back to life, but realizes that these efforts are futile.
- The speaker sees or imagines that nature itself is negatively affected by this death, or the speaker is amazed or outraged that nature is not affected by this death.
- The speaker meditates on the nature of death, especially in comparison or contrast to the nature of life.
- The speaker finds some kind of consolation or acceptance of the death, often in the belief of some kind of immortality for the lost one.
Assignment:

Write an elegy of your own. Your choices are:

1.) Write about a well-known person (celebrity, athlete, politician, etc)

2.) Write about a person you have lost in your own life

3.) Write about an inanimate object such as the precious ipod you lost last week!

Requirements:

- Your elegy must be about one of the above topics
- Your elegy must contain at least five of the above characteristics
- Your elegy must be written in couplet form

Due: