**Szymborska In-Class Essay**

On Thursday you will write a style analysis of 1-2 poems of Wislawa Szymborska in response to one of the questions below. This will be a timed, in-class essay test; you must turn it in at the end of class. You will need to use your copy of the work (your poetry packet) during the test. You may also use other handouts I have given you and your own notes on a 4” x 6” notecard. You may not use another student’s notes or packet. You may not write the essay ahead of time. You should do your own preparation for this essay.

Whichever prompt you choose, do not forget to discuss specific style elements.

You may organize the essay in any way that makes sense—the two most common methods are element-by-element (e.g., a paragraph about diction, a paragraph about imagery, etc.) and linear (stanza-by-stanza or starting at the beginning of the poem and working through to the end).

See reverse for scoring guide.

PROMPTS:

1. Some of Szymborska’s poems seem to be constructed to shock the reader or to create tension or discomfort. Discuss techniques the poet uses to produce shock, tension, and/or discomfort in 1-2 of her poems and the effect of this on the poems’ meaning.
2. How and to what effect does Szymborska create a sense of optimism in 1-2 of her poems?
3. How does Szymborska express wonderment at the miracle and beauty of life in 1-2 poems?
4. Paradox is often an important element of Szymborska’s poetry. Discuss the development and effect of paradox in 1-2 Szymborska poems.
5. How does Szymborska use irony, wit, wordplay and/or humor to develop meaning or explore a serious theme or topic in 1-2 of her poems?