Layout Experiment: Directions

Objective: Experiment with the layout of a poem

Do:
1. Log on to Edline and open the file titled “Layout Experiment.” Read the six provided poems and choose one you wish to work with.
2. Select and copy the text of the poem you chose. Open a new Microsoft Word document and paste the text of your poem in it. Print this document.
3. Use Microsoft Word to experiment with the layout and look of the poem.
   Experiment with layout (how the poem is arranged on the page) and text (font, size, color, boldface, italics, underlining, capital and lowercase letters) as you see fit. If you aren’t sure how to make the poem look the way you want to, consult another group member or the teacher.
4. When you find a layout with which you are happy, print it.

Reflection:
Write a paragraph that tells about the new layout you constructed. Include the choices you made and the purpose they serve. In other words, make sure you state why you chose to make the changes you did.

Save for your Poetry Booklet:
1. Copy of original layout saved on floppy disk
2. Copy of new layout saved on floppy disk
3. One paragraph discussion of new layout.
Quick Guide to Microsoft Word

To change the font:
- On the toolbar, click Format > Font
- Click the Font tab. Here you can change the font, font style (regular, italic, bold), font size, font color, and underline style. You can also apply various special effects like shadowing or embossing.

To change the layout:
- Use the mouse to select the text you want to align. Use the icons on the far right of the toolbar to align the selected text right, left, centered, or justified.
- If you want the text appear in a specific place on the page, type the text into a text box.

To place the text in a specific place on the page, create a text box:
- On the toolbar, click Insert > Text Box
- To move the text box, place the cursor on one of the edges. You will see a plus sign with arrows on the tips appear. Use the mouse to drag the text box to where you would like it to appear.
- To resize the text box, place the cursor on one of the dots that appear at the corners and on the sides. Click on it and drag the point until the box is the size you would like it to be.
- To change the look of a text box:
  - Place the cursor on the edge of the text box and right click. Select Format Text Box. In the Format Text Box window, select the Colors and Lines tab.
    - Fill indicates what color the background of your text box is. The default is white. If you want to be able to see through your text box (so you can see something positioned behind it), set the transparency to 100%.
    - Line indicates what color line you want around your textbox. The default is black. You can change both the color and style of the line. If you do not want a line around your text box, select Color > No Line.
  - Select the text box by clicking on it. A Text Box toolbar appears. From here you can:
    - Make text automatically flow to another text box. Select the box where the text begins. From the Text Box toolbar, select the chain link icon. Your cursor turns into a mug with an arrow on it. Click on the text box in which you would like the text to continue. When you type, text will automatically flow from one box to the next.
    - Change the direction of the text. Click on the icon on the far right to change in which direction the text flows (up-down, left-right).
As I Grew Older

It was a long time ago.
I have almost forgotten my dream.
But it was there then
In front of me,
Bright as a sun—
My dream.

And then the wall rose,
Rose slowly,
Slowly,
Dimming,
Hiding,
The light of my dream.
Rose until it touched the sky—
The wall.

Shadow.
I am black.
I lie down in the shadow . . .
Above me only the thick wall . . .
My hands!
Break through the wall and find my dream . . .
Thousand whirling dreams of sun.

- Langston Hughes

Backyard Dreams

looking out over the silent garden
the wind carries the voices
cinderella dressed in
of the children who adores
yella went upstairs to kiss a
this place only yesterday
fella made a mistake
but are now adults who will not remember
and kissed a snake so how
the empty tree weeps and
many doctors did it take
the faded ball is motionless as
one two three four
the grass leans to listen
aw too bad
yearning to hear the memories
you’re out

- Alleen Barber

I’m Nobody

I’m Nobody! Who are you?
Are you – Nobody – too?
Then there’s a pair of us!
Don’t tell! They’d banish us –
you know!

How dreary – to be Somebody!
How public – like a Frog –
To tell your name – the livelong June –
To an admiring Bog!

- Emily Dickinson

We Real Cool

    *The Pool Players.*
    *Seven at the Golden Shovel.*

We real cool. We
Left school. We
Lurk late. We
Strike straight. We
Sing sin. We
Thin gin. We
Jazz June. We
Die soon.

- Gwendolyn Brooks
[into the strenuous briefness]
Life;
handorgans and April
darkness,friends

i charge laughing.
Into the hair-thin tints
of yellow dawn,
into the women-coloured twilight

i smilingly
glide. I
into the big vermillion departure
swim,sayingly;

(Do you think?)the
i do, world
is probably made
of roses & hello:

(of solongs and,ashes)

-e.e. cummings

The Lockless Door
It went many years
But at last came a knock,
And I thought of the door
With no lock to lock.

I blew out the light,
I tiptoed the floor,
And raised both hands
In a prayer to the door.

But the knock came again.
My window was wide;
I climbed on the sill
And descended outside.

Back over the sill
I bade a “Come in”
To whatever the knock
At the door may have been.

So at a knock
I emptied my cage
To hide in the world
And alter with age.