

Work and the Human Condition

Poetry Workshop

Each group will have either 1 long, or a few shorter poems.

Read the poem(s) to yourself.

Now, taking some sections, read them aloud.

Choose a note-taker

- ❖ As a group, choose the one that seems most interesting to you.
- ❖ What does the poem say to you? How does it do that? (refer to the text).
- ❖ What historical/cultural/philosophical aspect of our study this year does it address? Note especially how it fits with Arendt's ideas about the *vita activa* and its components.
- ❖ What images does the poet create?
- ❖ Whose is the voice you hear?
- ❖ What do you notice about the actual sounds of the words—Consonants and vowels, long and short, clipped, repeated? How do the sounds work in to create meaning and mood?
- ❖ As you read/hear the poem, what is the rhythm? Where to the accents fall and how does that affect the way the poem makes its meaning?
- ❖ What is the tone of the poem? --sad, ironic, elegiac, story-telling, humorous, some combination—cite text to support your assertion.
- ❖ What is the tension/drama embedded in the poem?
- ❖ With what questions does the poet leave you?
- ❖ Choose a reader and a spokesperson

Read the poem for the class (or in the case of a long poem, a significant section). Talk about its historical/cultural context and address two or three of the questions you answered.