

## MCS Selective

### Astonished Harvest :: Becoming a Better Doctor Through Poetry

This selective is designed for students interested in reflecting on their experience in medical school through the medium of poetry. It is open to students who have never written poetry, as well as to those who have pursued poetry in the past. This selective is in the format of a continuing poetry workshop over several months as a participant in Astonished Harvest (AH).

AH is a loosely-knit group of physicians, other health care professionals, and community poets who meet at Setauket Neighborhood House each month to share and critique their poetry. The workshop focuses on themes of illness, healing, and health care practice, as experienced by patients, family members, physicians, nurses, and others. Participants bring a new poem to read and discuss at each session.

#### Instructors



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#### Educational Objectives:

At the conclusion of this selective you will have the ability to:

- 1 Describe how writing and careful listening to language can increase your ability to experience empathy and act compassionately.
- 2 Explain how reflecting on your personal experience through poetry can enhance your self-awareness.
- 3 Express and illustrate basic forms of poetic expression and figurative language: allusion, image, simile, and metaphor.
- 4 Critically respond to your own and others' poems.

**Requirements and Outline:**

To complete the selective, a student must:

- 1 Attend FOUR workshops out of a schedule of five workshops to be held from September through December 2017. The workshops take place from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at Setauket Neighborhood House. Scheduled dates are 9/25; 10/9; 10/23; 11/13; 11/27
- 2 Write four poems, post them on the AH blog, and present each one at a workshop.
- 3 Participate in critiquing and discussing poems of other participants in the AH workshops.
- 4 Read a small amount of assigned material on the craft and experience of writing poetry from Mary Oliver's A Poetry Handbook.

**Class Size**

Minimum 6 Maximum 8