

## ON READING POETRY

“... Poetry requires us to think, puzzle over language, and study words and the rhythm of words. Poetry requires us to consider words and sound images. And it requires us to make informed judgments based on textual evidence. Great works of art and literature require much of us: active reading and participation. Clear eyes. Open minds. Sensitive hearts. Our opening a book is not like turning on the television. If we are reading, then we’re thinking, because reading requires thinking. If we’re not thinking, then we’re not properly reading. If we’re not thinking, then we cannot possibly care about what we’re reading. If we don’t care, then quite simply we’re missing out on opportunities to discover truth and wisdom. I want to invite you, as the speaker in Alfred Lord, Tennyson’s famous poem “Ulysses” does, to experience realms of possibility “beyond the sunset.” That is, allow yourselves to use your imagination to discover new ways of expression, ways of being, forms of life, and unmapped geography.”

(To My Students Reading Tennyson’s “Ulysses”), April 22, 2012, in: <http://truthtableaux.com/2012/04/22/to-my-students-reading-tennysons-ulysses/> )