

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

***Thumbprint*** - Poem by Eve Merriam

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thumbprint**

In the heel of my thumb  
are whorls, whirls, wheels  
in a unique design:  
mine alone.

What a treasure to own! 5

My own flesh, my own feelings.  
No other, however grand or base,  
can ever contain the same.

My signature,  
thumbing the pages of my time. 10

My universe key,  
my singularity.  
Impress, implant,  
I am myself,  
of all my atom parts I am the sum. 15

And out of my blood and my brain  
I make my own interior weather,  
My own sun and rain.  
Imprint my mark upon the world,  
Whatever I shall become. 20



Whorls: circular fingerprint patterns on the fingertips by which people can be identified.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thumbprint** Poem - Questions

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS:**

Use the poem **Thumbprint** by Eve Merriam and your list of figurative language elements to respond to the questions below.

1. Find an example of alliteration in this poem and write it below:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. In the poem Eve Merriam compares her thumbprint to a number of things (examples of metaphor). What are some of these things?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Eve writes, "I make my own interior weather, my own sun and rain." Interpret these lines. What does she mean?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the most significant line of this poem? Copy the line(s) below in quotation marks. Why is this part so important? Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What do you consider unique about yourself? How might your inner qualities lead you to make a mark on the world? Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Questions:

1. What does the unique design of the speaker's thumb represent?
2. What is the theme of this poem?
3. How does this poem connect to a particular character from "text X"?
4. What is the tone of this poem?
5. What is the "treasure" of which the speaker is proud?
6. According to the speaker, what does her thumbprint represent?
7. Give an example of metaphor the poet uses to describe her thumbprint.
8. What are some examples of rhyme in this poem?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Thumbprint** Poem - Vocabulary

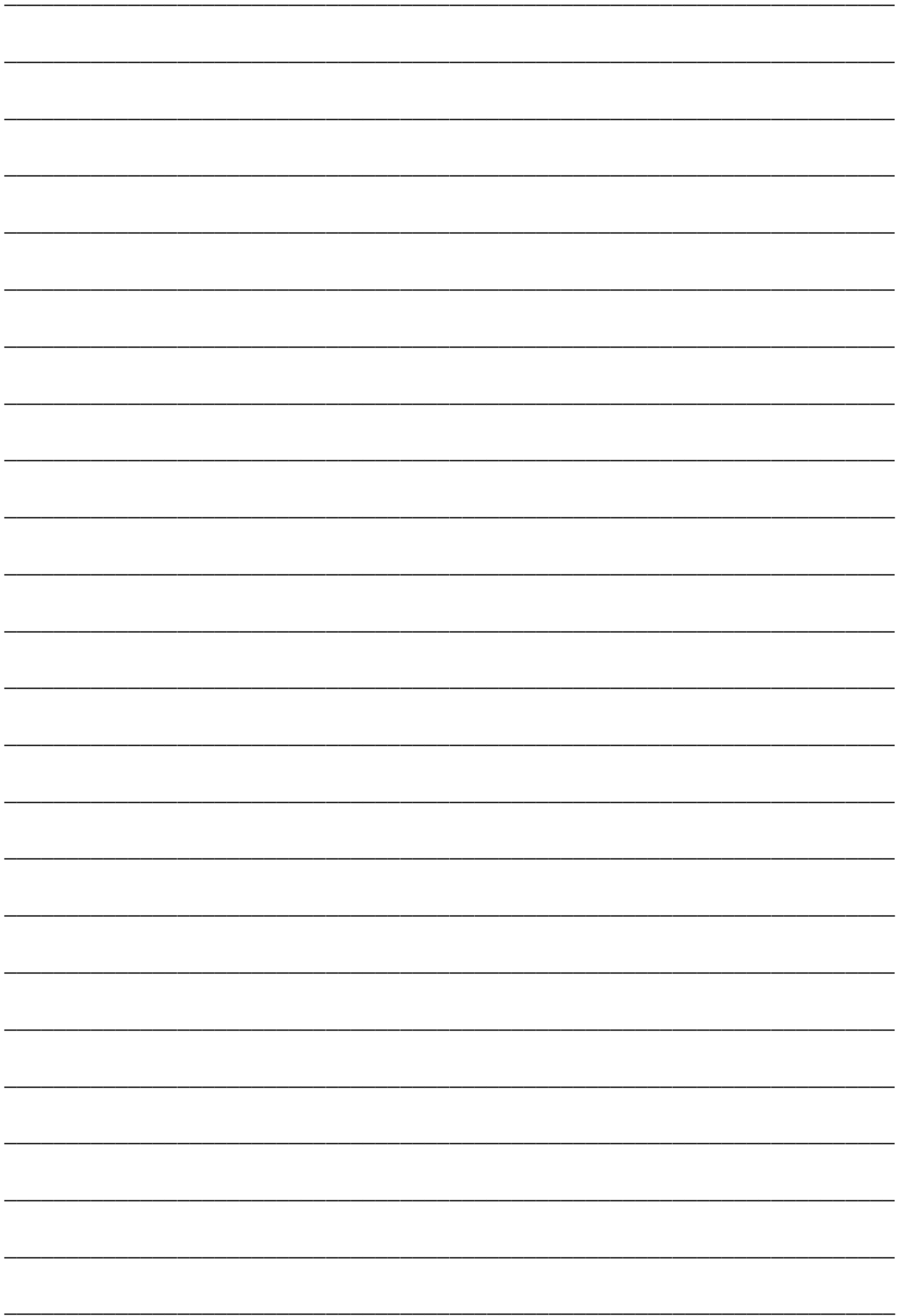
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS:**

Use the poem and a dictionary, thesaurus, or [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) to complete the chart below. Write definitions that make sense to you and that match the way the word is used in the poem.

Word from Poem	Definition / Synonyms
Grand (adj.)	
Base (adj.)	
Thumb(ing) (Verb)	
Singularity (Noun)	
Atom (Noun)	
Sum (Noun)	
Interior (adj.)	
Imprint (verb)	





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Thumbprint Concrete Poem - Figurative Language Examples Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS:**

- Soon you will be creating your own concrete poem about yourself in the shape of a thumbprint.
- Use ideas from your "Brainstorming Sheet" to write some figurative language that will appear in your poem.
- Your finished poem must include examples of these elements.
- Basically, you are writing some lines of your own poem (about you) right now! 😊

**Metaphor:**

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**Simile:**

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**Alliteration:**

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**Rhyme:**

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**Onomatopoeia:**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Thumbprint Concrete Poem - Poem Project Steps

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DIRECTIONS:**

- You will be creating a poem about yourself and your identity in the shape of your thumbprint. (A concrete poem is one that is written in a special shape not following traditional line format).
- Follow the steps below to plan your poem (in pencil) and then finish your final copy with color.

**Step 1** - Gently press your thumb into the ink pad and then gently press your thumb into the thumbprint part of the poem page.

**Step 2** - Look at the unique design of your thumbprint and create a sketch / guide that follows the unique shape of the lines or "whorls" of your own thumbprint in the big box on the page.

**Step 3** - Begin to write your poem using your brainstorming sheet & figurative language element planning sheet IN PENCIL. Remember to write a little larger than you normally would because we will be tracing over our letters with markers. Your writing should be neat!!! This will count as a project grade. **Remember, your poem must contain the following figurative language elements: metaphor, simile, alliteration, rhyme, onomatopoeia.**

**Step 4:** Edit your poem's rough draft. Check your poem for proper spelling, grammar, capitalization and punctuation. During this step, look at your poem, grab a thesaurus and jazz-up your vocabulary. **Include at least 5 interesting or sophisticated vocabulary words in your poem.** Erase! Fix! Add fancy vocabulary!

**Step 5:** Publishing - add color and maybe some artwork to your poem. Draw arrows to your figurative language elements and label them in the margin. Draw a box around your five sophisticated vocabulary words so they stand out.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

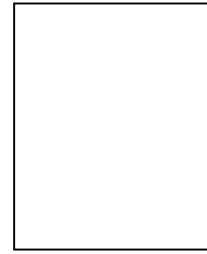
Thumbprint Concrete Poem Project Rubric

Scoring Criteria	Possible Points	Points Earned
Poem was handed in on-time	10	
Poem is neat, colorful and shows appropriate project-level effort.	10	
Poem contains appropriate examples of figurative language elements: <b>metaphor, simile, alliteration, rhyme, onomatopoeia</b> (at least one example of each) Elements are <b>labeled with name of element</b> in the margin and with an <b>arrow</b> to where the element is found in the poem.	10	
Poem contains interesting and varied language with a minimum of 5 sophisticated vocabulary words - words must be in a <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">box</span>	10	
Poem shows appropriate spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization	10	
Poem gives the reader a good sense of the author's unique qualities and identity	10	

Total Points Earned: \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_% Project Grade

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_

My Thumbprint



### Thumbprint Poem

