ENG IV: Poetry Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pd: \_\_\_

**TED TALKS Billy Collins: Everyday Moments, Caught in Time**

<http://www.ted.com/talks/billy_collins_everyday_moments_caught_in_time.html>

**Directions:** *Respond to the following quotes thoughtfully (2-3 sentences each). What does Billy Collins mean by each quote? How do you feel about these thoughts (agree/disagree)? Can you personally connect with any of these ideas?*

1. “When you get a poem [in a public place], it happens to you so suddenly that you don't have time to deploy your **anti-poetry deflector shields** that were installed in high school.” Do these deflector shields exist? Why? What is the argument Collins is making here?
2. “It's a good thing to get poetry off the shelves **and more into public life.”** Why is getting poetry more into public life important? What will/does this do for people?
3. “Bugs Bunny is my muse.” Look up the word muse. Make a statement about the significance of Collins choosing Bugs Bunny as his muse.
4. “I think more influential than Emily Dickinson or Coleridge or Wordsworth on my imagination were Warner Brothers, Merrie Melodies and Looney Tunes cartoons.” What does the impact of cartoons on his imagination, and the fact that he openly acknowledges this, do for him (with regard to his audience)?
5. “[One of my students said], "Poetry is harder than writing," which I found both erroneous and profound.” Respond. Is poetry hard? Why? Why not?
6. “It is as if one by one, the memories you used to harbor decided to retire to the Southern Hemisphere of the brain.” Connect this idea to writing poetry. How can poetry help you keep these memories? Why is this important to people?
7. “Whatever it is you are struggling to remember, it is not poised on the tip of your tongue, not even lurking in some obscure corner of your spleen. It has floated away.” So what should you do about these memories that are lost or “floating away”?