Response to Art Poem

Poets can write about any subject that interests them. Many poets have written poems about works of art that they enjoyed or with which they had strong connections. The book *Side by Side* shows many examples of poems written in response to art. We will look at examples written by William Carlos Williams and W.H. Auden in reaction to the same painting, *Landscape With the Fall of Icarus.*

Side by Side describes four basic ways that writers respond to art.
1. In **Stories** the poet looks at the artwork and imagines a story.
2. In **Voices** the poet enters the artwork and speaks in the voice of the subject depicted there.
3. In **Expression**s the poet is interested in communication between the viewer and the art.
4. In **Impressions** the poet identifies the subject of the artwork and describes what he or she sees in the art and its elements (colors, shapes, textures, etc.).

The assignment
Locate a painting, sculpture, building, or structure that interests you as a work of art. You may use books or the Internet to find the work. You may remember the piece from visits to museums, movies, visits to cities, or other experiences. Think about the artwork. How does it inspire you to write? Does it evoke feelings in you? Do you find connections between the art and other things? Does it make you want to tell a story?

Write a poem that is somehow "about" the art. You may write a free verse or a rhyming poem. It can be a lyric poem, a narrative poem, a ballad, or a series of haiku. Your poem must be at least 20 lines unless you write the haiku. You may do 4 haiku instead of a single poem of another kind for a total of 12 lines if you choose.

The final poem must include:
- At **least 2** sound devices (rhyme, rhythm, meter, onomatopoeia, alliteration, etc.)
- At **least 2** examples of figurative language (simile, metaphor, symbol, personification, hyperbole, etc.)
- At **least 2** examples of imagery (language that appeals to the five senses)

Turn in a printed copy or photocopy of the artwork with your poem.