**Hackensack High School**

**AP English Literature and Composition**

**Blank Verse Worksheet**

*Read the following three poetic excerpts. Then determine which one was written in* ***blank verse****. Explain how you made the determination. Then, for the two that are not* ***blank verse****, explain what element of* ***blank verse*** *poetry is missing.*

1. What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,  
What, what is he to do? I saw it go  
Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then  
Merrily over-there it is in the water!

- John Berryman

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2. The battle rent a cobweb diamond-strung

And cut a flower beside a ground bird's nest

Before it strained a single human breast.

The stricken flower bent double and so hung.

And still the bird revisited her young.

A butterfly its fall had dispossessed

- Robert Frost

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3. I celebrate myself, and sing myself,  
And what I assume you shall assume,  
For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.  
I loaf and invite my soul,  
I lean and loaf at my ease observing a spear of summer grass.

- Walt Whitman

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