With a partner, do a close reading of the poem, “Nothing Gold Can Stay” by Robert Frost. This is the poem Ponyboy recites to Johnny at the church. Make note of any figures of speech and what you think they add to the poem’s meaning. Together, use what you have discussed to write a brief outer meaning and inner meaning of the poem. Pass in the work at the end of class with both names on it.

Nature’s first green is gold,

Her hardest hue to hold.

Her early leaf’s a flower;

But only so an hour.

Then leaf subsides to leaf.

So Eden sank to grief,\*

So dawn goes down to day.

Nothing gold can stay.

**Outer meaning:** At first glance, what is the poem about? Think about nature.

**Inner meaning**: After critical thinking, what is the deeper, less apparent meaning? Think about youth, loss of innocence, and Johnny and Ponyboy’s changes from the beginning of the book until now.

**Look fors:** personification, alliteration, metaphor, allusion\*, rhyme, theme,

\*Allusion: Allusion is a brief and indirect reference to a person, place, thing or idea of historical, cultural, literary or political significance. It does not describe in detail the person or thing to which it refers. It is just a passing comment and the writer expects the reader to possess enough knowledge to spot the allusion and grasp its importance in a text.