Three poems I would recommend for a year 8 poetry anthology are: "The Toaster" by William Jay Smith, "Legend" by Judith Wright, and "Death to Cats" by Peter Porter. The reason I would recommend these poems are: "The Toaster" by William Jay Smith because his use of metaphors brings the poem to life and helps you to visualise the dragon.

"Legend" by Judith Wright uses similes, personification, and metaphors to help you live the journey of the blacksmith's boy. And Peter Porter's "Death to Cats" rage conflict between cats and dogs by using comparison.

My first choice is "The Toaster" by William Jay Smith, it is a descriptive poem that describes a toaster appearing to be a dragon with silver scales and flaming red jaws. The poem depends on metaphor. It does this in such a way we can imagine the dragon. "It sits on my elbow and toasts my bread," this is usual imagery. It helps us the reader to visualise the dragon sitting on someone's elbow and toasting their bread.

The more visual imagery the better the poem, because it helps us the reader to create our own image and view of what we think the dragon is like. Smith also uses strong
verbs and rhythm and rhyme. Rhythm and rhyme add a sense of feeling to the poem, by adding atmosphere. This helps to make the meaning clearer, and to make the poem easy to read and roll of the tongue.

Smith’s use of strong verbs makes the poem stronger, by not only making the meaning clearer, but by making the poem powerful, interesting, vibrant and enjoyable. Smith’s use of poetic technique, mainly metaphor, enable us, the reader to see common place objects, with a fresh and often startling vision. Smith’s imagination and powers of toasters work in unison as the toaster he observes becomes a dragon.

My second choice ‘Legend’ by Judith Wright is a very optimistic poem. It uses similes, personification and metaphors to help you live the journey of the blacksmith’s boy. ‘The blacksmith’s boy went out with a rifle and a black dog running behind’. This shows how optimistic he is. He does not care about food, water or shelter, but about company and protection. Cobwebs and rivers were in his way as he went on his journey, but he just deleted these small obstacles and continued. On the
bigger more powerful obstecals stood in his way but he just defeated them and continued. He had lost his hat, his dog had run away and gun broke and yet he never gave up. The whole world said, nobody is bolder or braver.

Wright use... similes to compare an object to something it may be or is like. She uses personification so when "the grass lay clown" we now it is only a figure of speech. Her use of verbs and metaphors brings the poem to life and helping you to live what the blacksmith's boy went through. Wright's use of rhythm and rhyme help the poem to read easy. This is a fantastic poem because it helps us, the reader to no matter what obstacle stands in our way, how big or small we can defeat it.

My final choice. 'Death to cats' by Peter Porter raises much conflict between cats and dogs, some people prefer cats some dogs. Porter uses comparison to compare cats behaviour to ours.

In conclusion I think these poems are great for a year 3 anthology because collectively they show us how a poet express their techniques with people.

**Grade Commentary**

Casey has demonstrated sound knowledge and understanding in relation to poetry analysis. There is an awareness of poetic devices, but their application and effect on the audience is unevenly developed. The response is repetitive and does not move beyond initial assertions which are unsupported by textual references. The use of language and structural organisation within the response is adequate.

Casey's response demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at grade C standard at the end of Stage 4.