

Title of the poem: _____

Poet: _____

1. Summarize or paraphrase the poem. React personally: How does it make you feel? Does it remind you of a personal experience? a story you've heard? an issue? a situation ?

2. Now analyze the poem using your annotations and the following:

Voice

- Who is speaking?
- How would you characterize the speaker?
- To whom is he or she speaking?
- What is the speaker's tone?
- Why is he or she speaking?

Word Choice, Word Order

- What type of diction is the poet employing?
- How does the poet's word choice affect the meaning of the poem? the tone?
- Does the poet employ figures of speech? (simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, understatement, metonymy, synecdoche)
- Does the word order impact the reading of or the meaning of the poem?

Imagery

- Did you note any descriptive passages? For each image, name the sense that is being appealed to.
- What is the dominant impression being created?
- What is the relationship of the descriptive images to the speaker's state of mind?
- How do images create sense of time of day? season of year? atmosphere? mood?
- Do the images progress? (day to night, hot to cold, soft to loud, color to color, etc)

Sound

- Does the poem contain an obvious meter or rhythm?
- What sounds are emphasized by the rhyme scheme?
- Are there sight rhymes, slant rhymes, alliteration, assonance, etc?

Structure

- Is the poem in a closed or open form?
- Is the poem presented in a traditional form?
- Is there a pattern of end rhymes? a syllabic line count? a set metrical pattern?
- How are the stanzas arranged? the lines?

Theme

- What seems to be the point of the poem?
- What ideas are being communicated by the speaker?
- How are the ideas being reinforced by the elements of the poem?

Other factors to consider

- Is the poem a lyric or a narrative or other?
- If it is a narrative, is there a setting? a conflict? a plot line? (elements of fiction)
- Does the poet employ the use of symbol? allegory? allusion? myth?