**Poetry Checklist**

1. Title/Author

* + Is the title appropriate to the subject?
  + Does the title generate interest and hint at what the poem is about
  + Who is the author? What kind of poems do they write? What subjects do they write about?

2. Subject/Setting

* + What is the basic situation? Where do the events take place? Who is speaking and under what circumstances?

3. Paraphrase

* + What is the literal meaning of the poem?
  + Restate the poem in your own words.

4. Tone/Mood

* + T: What is the author’s attitude toward the subject matter in the poem?
  + M: How do you feel as you read the poem?

5. Diction (word choice)

* + Are words repeated? If so, why do you think that is?
  + What are the connotations of the words? What is the meaning of each word? Is there a feeling generated from them?

6. Rhythm (syllable patterns – meter)

* + Is it natural?
  + Does it change in the poem or stay the same?

7. Rhyme

* + Is there a rhyme scheme? How does this affect the feeling/meaning of the poem?

8. Other Literary devices?

* + Are any other literary devices used in the poem? Figurative Language (metaphor, simile, personification), sound devices (onomatopoeia, assonance, consonance, alliteration), etc. How do these devices emphasize the effect or add to the deeper meaning of the poem?

9. Overall Impression

* What is the theme? What can we as readers learn from the poem?
* Is the poem original, honest, coherent, expressive, significant?
* How can I relate to the poem? What does this poem remind me of from my life? Can I empathize with the speaker of the poem?