

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, line by line.

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?

8. 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?

Writing a Poetry Analysis

- Opening sentences should contain: (5 points)
 - Poem's Title (remember to put in quotation marks and capitalize the first letter of each word)
 - Poet's name (first and last)
 - The subject of the poem – briefly discuss, introduce poem
- Paraphrase the poem. A paraphrase is not a summary. Include everything! This should be about 5-7 sentences in length. Refer to the person in poem as the **speaker**, not the author! (15 points)
- Discuss the poem. This should be about 5-7 sentences in length. (25 points)
 - Theme – not one word – must be a statement/ something the reader can learn about life in general
 - Tone – the author's attitude toward the subject matter, can be positive or negative
 - Mood – how you feel as a reader while reading it
 - The **author (do not address by first name)** explains, emphasizes, dramatizes, asserts, addresses, presents, portrays, emphasizes, illustrates, contrasts, stresses, characterizes, implies, underlines, shows
- Discuss specific techniques (a minimum of 3). This should be about 7-8 sentences in length. (30 points)
 - Alliteration, personification, assonance, consonance, rhyme, metaphor, simile, rhythm, meter, etc.
 - Include **examples and explanations** of each technique – Ex. "The author uses a metaphor to compare daffodils to stars, emphasizing the large number of daffodils in the field and creating a much more vivid image.
- Conclusion: Your personal response evoked by the poem. This should be about 5-7 sentences in length. (15 points)
 - You should not say, "I hated it." You may not have enjoyed it, but you should be able to appreciate it at some level.
 - You need to give some kind of specific reaction – how can you relate? Why can't you relate? What could the writer have done differently? What did the writer do very well?
 - ALWAYS use the present tense.
- Format: **Your analysis should be a minimum of 3-4 paragraphs, 5-7 sentences per paragraph. It should be typed, 12 point, Times New Roman font, double-spaced. (10 points)**

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