

Using TPCASTT for Analysis of Poetry

T	Title	What do the words of the title suggest to you? What denotations are presented in the title? What connotations or associations do the words possess?		
P	Paraphrase	Translate the poem in your own words. What is the poem about?		
C	Connotation	What meaning does the poem have beyond the literal meaning? Fill in the chart below.		
		Form	Diction	Imagery
		Point of View	Details	Allusions
		Symbolism	Figurative Language	Other Devices (antithesis, apostrophe, sound devices, irony, oxymoron, paradox, pun, sarcasm, understatement)
A	Attitude	What is the speaker's attitude? How does the speaker feel about himself, about others, and about the subject? What is the author's attitude? How does the author feel about the speaker, about other characters, about the subject, and the reader?		
S	Shifts	Where do the shifts in tone, setting, voice, etc. occur? Look for time and place, keywords, punctuation, stanza divisions, changes in length or rhyme, and sentence structure. What is the purpose of each shift? How do they contribute to effect and meaning?		
T	Title	Reanalyze the title on an interpretive level. What part does the title play in the overall interpretation of the poem?		
T	Theme	List the subjects and the abstract ideas in the poem. Then determine the overall theme. The theme must be written in a complete sentence.		