
HOW TO READ POETRY

- 01 Look at the title:** What do you learn about the poem before you read? Are there any words or phrases that stand out? What nouns, verbs, or adjectives stand out?
- 02 Read the poem through in its entirety:** Try reading the poem aloud. You may not understand everything the first time.
- 03 Annotate:** Identify any poetic and literary devices that are stand out. What other messages or ideas can you identify?
- 04 Comment:** Paraphrase and summarize in your own words the main messages that stand out and the central themes that emerge.
- 05 Identify:** Identify the speaker/narrator of the poem. What do you learn about them? What is the author's tone (what words help you know this)? What is the main point of view or perspective of the author? What is the author's attitude towards the main ideas in the poem?
- 06 Transitions or shifts:** What shifts or transitions appear in the poem? What do you notice as a reader about the impact of those transitions/shifts? What purpose do those serve?
- 07 Poetic structure:** What did you notice about the rhyme scheme, meter of the lines, or other poetic devices the author used? How does those impact the main ideas or messages?
- 08 Analysis:** Analyze the author's use of imagery, symbols, interferences, connotation, and. main messages. How does those impact the meaning or messages?