



TPDASTT

Analyzing & Annotating Poetry

Title:

Contemplate the meaning of the title without reference to the poem. In your mind create some expectations of what is to come.

Paraphrase the Plot:

Begin reading the poem, sentence by sentence, *not line by line*, putting it into your own words as you go. **DO NOT READ INTO THE POEM!** Only read on surface level.

Once you are finished, list three to four of the poems subjects.

Devices, Diction & Details:

Now read the poem a second time, looking for devices *and* what they are suggesting in terms of meaning. They have a purpose! So should finding them!

- **Figurative Language?**
 - What extra meaning is brought in by its use?
 - What **tone/mood** is suggested by the images it creates?
- **Sound Devices?**
 - How do they impact the images? The **tone**?
- **Structure?**
 - Look for particular poem types – especially sonnets – and also look for general structural devices such as stanzas, rhyme scheme, sets of lines, and length of lines.
- **Diction?**
 - How does the word choice affect the **tone**?

Attitude:

Look for the author's **TONE**. How does the speaker feel about the subject? What **details/images/word choices** suggest this?

Shifts:

Look for shifts in **TONE**. These can be indicated by shifts from stanza to stanza, Don't just write the line number! Discuss how the shift(s) affects the poem.

Title:

RE-evaluate the title as it pertains to the poem-now that you have looked closer, does the title have additional significance?

Theme:

What does the poem mean? What is it saying?

- Look back at the list of subjects that you made after paraphrasing.
- Now, determine what the poet is saying about each of these subjects (theme).
- Explain and elaborate as necessary, and be certain your theme is in a complete sentence: don't simply say "Love" or "It's about Love."