

Gifted English 9 & 10 Poetry Out Loud project

Part I: Annotation of Poem

Follow each of these steps as you analyze the poem before writing your explication. Make notes about each step on the poem itself.

1. Notice the title. Make notes about your initial reactions at the top of the poem.
2. Locate the independent clauses in the poem, and read them individually. (They will often not end at the ends of the lines.) Notice any that are questions. For each independent clause, underline the subject once and verb twice.
3. Place boxes around vivid words whose meanings are complex or particularly apt. Look up words that you do not know; underline these words, and write synonyms above the words in the poem.
4. Look for figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification, symbol, allusion). Circle them and draw an arrow to the comparison—or explain the comparison if it is implied.
5. Identify the speaker in this poem. From what point of view is the poem written? What is the occasion? Is it spoken to someone in particular? Make some notes about your ideas.
6. Locate the shift(s) in the poem (in point of view, tone, and focus); draw a dividing line and briefly explain the change. Notice the "turning" words (but, so, yet, however); make an asterisk beside these.
7. Identify the tone of the poem (or tones if there is a shift). Write the tone word(s) in the margin and draw arrows to elements of the poem that support the tone. Use your tone chart for precise vocabulary.
8. Read the poem again, aloud, preferably to someone else. Then, complete this sentence at the bottom of the page: *The poem "[title]" by [poet] is about [abstract topic], and it reveals [observation about humanity or human condition].*

Part II: Personal Response

Compose a minimum of one paragraph that expresses your personal response to the poem. Be precise in writing about how the poem's theme, focus, and/or details connect to your own personal experience.

Part III: PowerPoint & Class Presentation

Teach your classmates about your poem.

- Begin with the poem's theme. Explain what the poem means—its main idea. What does the author suggest about human nature?
- Then, analyze the literary elements the author uses to express the poem's theme. Describe how the poem means. Rather than attempting to discuss all the devices in the poem, focus on the three or four devices that are most dominant. You must include *tone* in your analysis.
- Directly reference and explain specific aspects of the poem. Highlight the poet's use of language and his or her literary style.
- Create an activity that allows your classmates to interact with the poem, its theme, and/or its literary devices.
- Your presentation will be assessed for your knowledge and understanding, accuracy, and delivery. Be prepared!
- Make sure that your PowerPoint presentation is guide—not a script. Do not read from the PowerPoint.

Part IV: Recitation

Rubric

- *Accuracy*: reciting the exact words with correct pronunciation and in proper order
- *Fluency and Pace*: reciting at appropriate speed; speaking without pausing or being prompted
- *Delivery*: using appropriate volume, body language, and gestures while maintaining eye contact with audience
- *Understanding*: conveying the theme and revealing meaning of the poem

Memorization Tips

- Rewrite the poem by hand over and over. Each time, try to write more and more of it from memory.
- Read your poem aloud before going to sleep at night and repeat it when you wake up.
- Carry around a copy of your poem with you all day. You'll find several moments throughout the day to reread it or recite it.
- Practice your poem aloud by reading and reciting to family and friends.
- Rehearse with a partner who checks your accuracy.
- Recite your poem in the mirror, working on gestures, pace, and body language.