

Poetry Annotation and Analysis

Choose a short poem (15-20 lines). Copy it onto a half-slice of paper and use the other half for writing an analysis.

- Write the poem.
- Read the poem aloud.
- identify the following elements and make notations: rhyme scheme, figurative language, images, symbols, sound devices (alliteration, consonance, assonance, rhythm, onomatopoeia).
- circle any part of the poem that stands out, confuses you, or is important.
- Write questions in the margin; highlight unusual words; mark phrases that indicate the poem's meaning.
- Determine the poem's theme and draw arrows to the lines that support the theme.

Poetry Analysis

Once the annotations are complete, it's time to write the analysis. An analysis consists of facts and commentaries. It is not a summary, a listing of facts, or random, unsubstantiated conjecture. Use the following outline to help you:

- Topic sentence stating the title of the poem, the author, and the poem's theme.
 - Evidence #1: Identify an important line, poetic devices, rhyme scheme.
 - Analysis/Interpretation #1: Explain how the evidence supports the designated theme.
 - Analysis/Interpretation #2: Explain how the evidence supports the designated theme.
 - Evidence #2: Identify an important line, poetic devices, rhyme scheme.
 - Analysis/Interpretation #1: Explain how the evidence supports the designated theme.
 - Analysis/Interpretation #2: Explain how the evidence supports the designated theme.
 - Concluding Sentence