

Core Analysis Frame: Poetry**D36**

The questions on this analysis frame will help you achieve a basic understanding of any poem you read. For more advanced, in-depth analysis of each element, use the following frames:

- Analyzing Content
- Analyzing Form and Structure
- Analyzing Language and Style

Examine Content

- What is this poem about?
- Who is the speaker?
What other characters are involved?
- Where does this poem take place?
- What event or situation is described?
- What is the major idea this poem brings to mind?
What message, or theme, does it communicate?

**Examine Form and Structure**

- What poetic form has the author used for this poem (for example, sonnet, haiku, lyric, free verse)?
- What is the structure of this poem?
 - * How are the lines and white spaces arranged on the page?
 - * What other devices, such as stanzas or punctuation, does the poet use within the poem? Describe one or two instances in which your understanding of the poem is affected by one of these devices.
 - * Are sound devices—for example, rhyme, meter, and alliteration—used within the poem? If so, what do these contribute to the poem’s meaning or effect?

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Core Analysis Frame: Poetry (Part 2)**D37****(continued from page D36)****Examine Language and Style**

- What word choices help bring the poet's subject to life?
- What images are brought to mind by the language in this poem?
- What symbols does the poet use in this poem? What message or idea might these symbols represent?

Evaluate and Critique

- In your opinion, does the poet convey a major idea, image, or theme clearly and effectively? Support your opinion with details from the poem.
- Does the poet's language contribute to your understanding or appreciation of the poem? Provide examples to support your opinion.
- Is the subject of the poem presented in a particularly original or effective way? Support your opinion with details from the poem.



Poetic Content**D38****Basic Analysis**

- What is this poem about?
- Who is the speaker?
What other characters are involved?
- Where does the poem take place?
- What event or situation is described?
- What is the main idea, image, or message of this poem?

**In-Depth Analysis****Examine Content**

- Describe the speaker's attitude toward the people or situation in this poem. Use details from the poem to explain your answer.
- What does the scene or setting contribute to the poem?
- Poems are often quite powerful when they compare or contrast two things (for instance, good and evil, love and hate, beauty and waste). Does the poet compare or contrast anything? If so, what?
- What does the title add to your understanding of the poem?
- Does this poem contain symbolism? If so, what is the symbol? What does it represent?
- In what way might this poem reflect the era in which it was written?

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Poetic Content (Part 2)

D39

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Compare and Contrast

Compare the content of this poem with that of other poems, selections from other genres, or your own experiences:

- How is the message in this poem similar to or different from that in other works you have read about the same topic?
- Compare this poem to a story, novel, play, or nonfiction work on the same topic.
- Compare this poem with other works you have read about a similar topic from the same time period. Was the topic treated in a similar or different way? Explain.
- Compare the ideas or values expressed in this poem with your own.

Evaluate and Critique

- How well does this poem communicate its main idea, image, or message? Provide specific examples to support your opinion.
- Poems are meant to stir you to think or feel in new ways about a topic or situation. Was this poem successful in doing this for you? Discuss.
- Do you agree with the attitudes or beliefs expressed in this poem? Why or why not?



Poetic Language and Style

D40

Basic Analysis

- What word choices help bring the poet's subject to life?
- What images are brought to mind by the language in this poem?
- What symbols does the poet use in this poem? What might these symbols represent?



In-Depth Analysis

Examine Language and Style

- What metaphors, similes, or other poetic devices stand out in this poem?
- Look at the language used by the speaker in this poem. What impressions do you have of the speaker based on the language?
- What images does the poet create in this poem?
- Some poets have a distinctive **style**—they use language in a way that is instantly identifiable. What might be considered distinctive about this poet's style?

Compare and Contrast

- Compare the language of this poem with others you have read, by this author or by different authors. What differences in language are there among the selections? Which do you think are most effective, and why?
- Read several poems by the same author. Describe any similarities between them in language or style.

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Poetic Language and Style (Part 2)

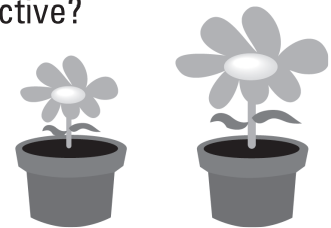
D41

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- Compare this poem’s language with poems from the same literary period.
 - * What features seem to be characteristic of the period?
 - * Which features seem to be unique to this poet?

Evaluate and Critique

- Did you like how the poet used language in this poem? Why or why not?
- Which features of the language did you find to be most effective? Least effective? Why? Think about:
 - * metaphors and similes
 - * sound devices
 - * imagery
- What is your opinion of the poet’s style overall? Give reasons and specific examples to support your opinion.



Poetic Form and Structure

D42

Basic Analysis

- What poetic form has the author used in this poem (for example, sonnet, haiku, free verse)?
- What is the structure of this poem?
- Which sound devices—for example, rhyme, meter, and alliteration—are used within the poem? What do these add to the poem?

In-Depth Analysis

Examine Form and Structure

- Does the structure of the poem (couplets, stanzas, other organizing devices) help communicate a main idea, image, or message?
- Read the poem aloud, listening to the sound patterns (rhyme, meter, alliteration). What words or images do the sound patterns emphasize?
- Look at the actual shape of the poem on the page. Does anything about the look of the poem reinforce its meaning? Share your observations.
- Does the poet use stanzas, capitalization, or punctuation to emphasize anything in the poem? If so, tell what is emphasized and how.



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Poetic Form and Structure (Part 2)**D43****(continued from page D42)****Compare and Connect**

- Compare the form and structure of this poem with others you have read by the same author, or with poems by different authors.
 - * What differences in form and structure do you notice among the selections you have chosen?
- Compare the form and structure of this poem with others from the same literary period.
 - * What do they have in common?
 - * Which features seem to be unique to this poet?

Evaluate and Critique

- In your opinion, do the poetic form and structure of this poem help communicate its meaning and contribute to its effect on readers?
- Which features of the form and structure of the poem impressed you the most? Rate them from 1 (most) to 5 (least) and explain why.
 - * The rhyme
 - * The meter or rhythm
 - * The use of line breaks and stanzas
 - * The layout on the page
 - * The punctuation or capitalization
 - * The sound patterns

