

Three-Column Poetry Analysis Directions

In order to fully comprehend and appreciate a work of poetry, one must analyze the poem and its layers of meanings. Use the following steps to analyze the poem.

Directions:

1. Number each line of poetry.
2. Make a prediction from examining the title.
3. Read the poem and do Level 1.
4. Read the poem again and do Level 2.
5. Read the poem a third time and do Level 3.
6. Write a theme statement.
7. Re-examine the title
8. Write three higher level questions you would like to have answered during small group discussion.
9. Answer group members' higher level questions (if directed by teacher)

Three Column Poem Analysis

Title: Look at the title of the poem and try to predict if the title has a certain meaning.

<p>Level 1 (Literal)</p>	<p>Level 2 (Interpretive)</p>	<p>Level 3 (Critical) Explorative/Reflective</p>
<p>Make notes on the following aspects of the poem:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Circle unfamiliar vocabulary and words or images that are important in establishing the poet's attitude toward the subject 2. Underline/highlight words, phrases or lines that answer the key questions: who, what, when, where 3. Place question marks next to sections that are confusing 	<p>Notes written in this column will focus on why certain words, phrases or lines are significant or how they are important to the meaning of the poem—this is the place to focus on the author's style. In the left-hand column, write notes that address the following tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mark examples of figurative language and write possible meanings 2. Look for shifts (time, place, point of view, tone, etc) that occur 3. Underline lines that address the key questions: Why and how 4. Box details related to the circled words, in order to determine if the connotation is positive, negative or neutral. 	<p>Notes written in the right column focus on the universal meaning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is the poem important to study? • What does this poem have to do with me? • What do I think about the poem? • What does this poem say about people? • What is the tone of the poem? • How does the poet use techniques such as word choice, imagery, repetition etc. to develop the tone in the poem?

Theme: What is the major point the poet is trying to tell you as a reader? Write a theme statement.

Title: Examine the title again, this time on an interpretive level. See if the title has any significance and describe its significance.