

Name _____

Date _____

1. **Read.** Read through the poem carefully. Write down any immediate thoughts that come to mind.

2. **Build your understanding.** Read the poem again, then answer these guiding questions to get a better sense of what the poem is about:

Title: What is the poem's title? (Or, what is the poem's first line, if it has no title?) What impact does the title have on readers?	
Subject: What happens in the poem? What objects, people, or events are described?	
Speaker: Is there a clear speaker or voice narrating the poem? If so, who is the speaker and how does the speaker feel? (Or, what is the speaker's tone ?)	
Audience: Is the poem's speaker talking to someone specific? If so, who is the poem addressed to?	

3. **Deepen your understanding.** Read the poem a third time **out loud**. This time, take a closer look at the features of the poem that stand out to you.

Sounds: What sounds, such as rhyme or rhythm, do you hear in the poem? How do these sounds make readers feel? What is their impact on the meaning of the poem?	
Language: What descriptive language, such as imagery or metaphors, do you notice? How does the language impact how readers feel or understand the poem?	
Structure: What do you notice about the poem's shape and structure, like its lines and spaces? How does this structure affect the poem's meaning or message?	

4. **Interpret.** Based on your notes above, what do you think the poem's meaning or message is? This is your **interpretation** that you'll explain in your essay. Here are some sentence frames to help you:

The poem reveals _____.

The poem explores the idea that _____.

Interpretation of the Poem

5. **Plan for writing.** Put a star (*) next to 2–3 main features that helped you arrive at your interpretation.