Dr. Pelotte Poetry Explication Guide—AP Literature

We have been practicing analyzing through 1) observing, 2) looking for patters, and 3) drawing conclusions. Poetry explication is a line by line commentary of what is going on in the text. It seeks to make the implicit explicit through unfolding how the poet uses figurative language and other poetic devices to create meaning. It calls attention to the meaning of words as well as rhyme, rhythm, paradox, irony, and all other elements that contribute to a poem’s meaning.

The first four examples have been chosen for you.

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| **EXAMPLE FROM TEXT** | **POETIC DEVICE *OR* STRUCTURAL ELEMENT** | **EFFECT ON POEM’S MEANING** |
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**NOW…**write a **thesis statement** based on the patterns you uncovered in the poem. Be sure to include a “what” + ”active verb” + “concept.”

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