Dr. Pelotte

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**Mapping a Poem**

**Step 1🡪**Read the poem OUT LOUD.

**Step 2🡪** Number the lines down the *left-hand* side of the poem and identify any rhyme scheme on the *right-hand* side of the poem.

**Step 3🡪** Highlight all *punctuation* in yellow and all *capitalization* in pink.

**Step 4🡪** Divide into sections.

**Step 5🡪** Circle any unfamiliar vocabulary. Define these works on the back of the poem.

**Step 6🡪** Identify and label any metaphors, similes, personification or other poetic devices.

**Now…you are ready to analyze the poem.**

**TP-CAST: Poetry Analysis**

**T**itle Ponder the title. It is often the key to meaning. What comes to mind when you read the title?

**P**araphrase For each section, translate the plot into your own words. Do this on the literal level. What is happening in each section?

**C**onnotation Poems have multiple layers of meaning. Once you’ve written down the plot on the literal level, contemplate the poem for figurative meaning; what is the **significance** of the *metaphors*, *similes*, and *other poetic devices* you identified? Identify the techniques used and EXPLAIN what you see them contributing to the poem; trust your opinion!

**A**udience What is the audience for this poem? To whom does the speaker seem to be addressing? What type of individual/group

**S**hift/

Speaker Who is the speaker of the poem? (1st person, 3rd person, etc.) Note all the shifts in tone, speakers, settings, and even sounds. Rarely does a poem begin and end in the same place. How does the poem progress?

Tone This means MOOD. What is the writer’s and/or speaker’s attitude towards the subject? Does it change or remain the same? This is often the key to interpreting a theme.

**T**heme Determine what the poem is saying; recognize the human experience,  
motivation, or condition suggested by the poem. Remember that theme is a complete statement of the human condition. What is the poem saying about life and what it means to be human? **There can be more than one correct answer, but you must be able to back up your theme with evidence from the poem**.