

HANDOUT #10 TP-CASTT

Title:

Ponder the title before reading the poem. Make predictions. What will the poem likely be about? Are there any words in the title you need to look up?

Paraphrase:

Translate the poem into your own words. This is the plot of the poem. This is where you make sure you clearly understand the literal meaning of any unfamiliar words.

Connotation:

Consult your list of literary terms. Begin looking at how the poem is constructed. What devices of figurative language are used? What is the rhyme scheme like? Why have certain words been chosen over others?

Attitude:

Describe the tone, or mood of the speaker. What is his/her attitude toward the topic?

Shift:

Trace the changing feelings of the speaker from beginning to end.

Does the speaker's attitude seem different than it was at the beginning?

Look for shifts after transition words, after strong punctuation marks or after stanza divisions.

Title (Again):

Look at the title on an interpretive level. Does it have new, added, or deeper meaning now that you have read the poem closely?

Theme:

The theme must be stated as a complete sentence that has meaning beyond the poem. It is the central message that the poet has attempted to communicate to the reader.