

A Strategy for Analyzing Poetry

TPCASTT

Step 1 - **T**itle – Ponder the title before reading the poem.

Then, read the poem and pay attention to the poet's use of poetic devices.

Step 2 - **P**araphrase – Translate the poem into your own words.

Step 3 - **C**onnotation – Contemplate the poem for meaning beyond the literal.

Step 4 - **A**ttitude – Observe both the speaker's and the poet's attitude (tone).

Step 5 - **S**hifts – Note shifts in speaker and in attitudes.

Step 6 - **T**itle – Examine the title again, this time on an interpretive level.

Step 7 - **T**heme – Determine what the poet is saying.