

Analyzing Poetry

A good mnemonic device (or memory trick) for analyzing poetry is the TPCASTT system.

Title: Ponder the title before reading the poem

Paraphrase: Translate the poem into your own words

Connotation: Contemplate the poem for meaning beyond the literal level

Attitude: Observe both the speaker's and the poet's attitude (tone).

Shifts: Note shifts in speakers and attitudes or form (Note any changes in poem)

Title: Examine the title again, this time on an interpretive level

Theme: Determine what the poet is saying