

WORKSHEET FOR ANALYZING POETRY

Poet:

Poem:

Source:

Publisher:

Year of Publication:

Location:

1. How does the poem make you feel—shocked, saddened, angered, annoyed, happy? Write a sentence or two describing your reaction.
2. Who is the speaker? What do you know about him or her? What tone does the speaker use? To whom is he or she speaking?
3. What is the poem's setting? If it is unclear, why does the poet not provide a setting?
4. What emotional atmosphere or mood does the poet create? Do you sense, for example, a mood of foreboding, excitement, or contentment?
5. How does the poet use language to create an effect? Does the poet use similes, metaphors, personification, or symbols?
6. Does the poem tell a story? If so, what is its point?
7. Does the poem express emotion? If so, for what purpose?
8. Does the poem rhyme? If so, does the rhyme affect the meaning? (For example, does the poet use rhyme to emphasize key words or phrases?)
9. What is the meaning of the poem's title?
10. What is the theme of the poem?