Poetry Analysis Worksheet

A step-by-step guide to reading and understanding poetry

1. **Title**
   * If there is a title – does it define the subject matter of the poem’s focus?

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1. **First Reading** 
   * Read the poem silently to gain a first impression.  What is the narrative in the poem (what is happening?)  Make some notes on your first impressions.

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1. **Re-Reading**
   * Read the poem again – carefully, analytically.
   * Take note of punctuation; notice images that stand out; listen to the rhyming pattern and the rhythm of the words

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1. **Meaning**
   * Identify the obvious meaning and then look for implied meaning (s). What do you think the poet is trying to say?

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1. **Theme/s**
   * Identify the main theme of the poem

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1. **Analysis**
   * Are there poetic techniques such as: **similes; metaphors; alliteration; personification; onomatopoeia; assonance?**

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* + Other structures such as: **repetition; tenses; different voices; different themes in stanzas.**

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* + Use of vocabulary and language? (Find the meaning of words you are not familiar with)

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* + Listen to the tone of the poem. What is it? Does it change?

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* + What is the poet’s message or intention in writing this poem?

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1. **Interpretation**
   * What issues are raised about society/relationships or life?

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