

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For this project you will read and analyze a poem. The following instructions will help you find meaning within the poem.

**1. What does the title mean?**

Take a look at the title and reflect on what it means: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(You will need this for the introductory paragraph of your interpretation essay.)

**2. Put it in your own words**

Read the poem two or three times. You will see something different each time you read the poem. Write a brief summary of the poem in your own words. Highlight or list some of the words (nouns, verbs, phrases) that are important to understanding the poem.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3. What do you think the poem means?**

Now think about the meaning of the poem, not just the obvious meaning of each word but what they mean beyond the literal. Do these words suggest something else? Answer these questions:

1. Who is the subject of the poem? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are they talking about? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do you think the author wrote the poem? \_\_\_\_\_
4. When is the poem happening? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where is the poem happening? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the poet's attitude? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How does the poem shift from person to person or between different times or places?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Paradigm shift**

Most poems tell us about a poet's understanding of an experience so the beginning will be different than the end. The change may be in feelings, language (slang to formal), or connotation (positive to negative). Explain how these shifts convey the poem's message.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Poetic devices: Tools of the poet**

Identify different poetic devices and how they convey the poem’s message. Number the lines in your poem to reference them.

- Simile – comparison using like or as \_\_\_\_\_
- Metaphor – a direct comparison \_\_\_\_\_
- Personification – giving human qualities to nonhuman things \_\_\_\_\_
- Tone – what emotion does the speaker use as he talks \_\_\_\_\_
- Point of view – who is the telling the poem \_\_\_\_\_
- Imagery – creating pictures with words \_\_\_\_\_
- Alliteration – repeating the same letter \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Theme**

Identify the theme (central idea) of the poem. How does the theme convey the poem’s message?

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**6. Revising the title**

Now look at the title again. Do you now have a different interpretation of the title?

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