

Responding to Poetry

	Meaning	Questions to consider
Theme	The message in the poem.	What is the poem about? What idea/s is the poet expressing? What tone is created?
Form	A certain type of poem, for example: Sonnet, narrative, monologue, free verse etc. Some poems adopt specific forms, many don't have an identifiable form.	Can you identify a specific form? Why is the poem written in this form? How does it link to the theme of the poem and the poet's message?
Structure	The way the poet has organised the poem. This consists of the number of stanzas, the number of lines in each stanza and the length of each line.	How does the structure link to the theme of the poem? Are there any interesting uses of punctuation and what might these suggest? Does each stanza contain the same amount of lines? If so, why? If not, why? How does this link to the message in the poem?
Rhyme and Rhythm	Words that sound alike at the end of lines. The measured flow of words and phrases.	Can you identify a rhyme scheme? Is this regular or varied? Why has the poet used this rhyme scheme? How does it link to the tone of the poem? Are there a regular number of beats in each line? Do these vary? How does this link to the tone of poem?

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Language	The words and phrases the poet has chosen to use.	What kind of words/ phrases are used in the poem? How does the language link to the theme of the poem? What words/phrases are powerful and why? What is the semantic field of the poem and how does this support the tone?
Poetic techniques	How the poet has used language in a particular way to create an effect, for example: metaphor, simile, personification, alliteration etc.	What techniques has the poet used? What does the use of this technique actually mean? For example, what does the metaphor mean? What is the effect of the technique? Consider how the technique links to the message of the poem.