

Personal response:

- What is the tone of the poem (happy, angry, ironic, patriotic, etc.)?
- How does this poem make me feel?
- Why does it make me feel this way?
- What are my first impressions?
- What stands out to me?
- Why does it stand out?

Links to other poems:

- What other poems are linked to this poem by theme?
- What poems are linked by context?
- What poems are linked by structure?
- What similarities are there between these thematically linked poems?
- What differences are there between these linked poems?

Themes:

- What is the main theme of this poem?
- How does the title link to the themes in this poem?
- Is the theme clear at the beginning or does it emerge later in the poem?
- Is there more than one theme?

Context:

- Who wrote the poem?
- Has their personal viewpoint influenced the poem?
- When was the poem written?
- How has the poem been influenced by historical context?
- Does it have a message about society or historical events?
- Has the poem been influenced by other books or poems?
- Does it use a traditional 'literary' structure (e.g. sonnet)?

Language/imagery:

- What is the meaning of the title?
- How does it link to the rest of the poem?
- Which words are the most powerful / have the most impact?
- Are certain words emphasised or repeated?
- What connotations do certain words have?
- Can certain words or phrases be interpreted in more than one way?
- How does the poet use language to present the theme of this poem (love, nature, war etc.)?

Structure and punctuation:

- How is the poem organised into stanzas?
- Are the stanza and lines regular or irregular?
- Are there any short lines?
- Does this poet use a particular structure (sonnet, ballad etc.)?
- Has the poet used enjambment or caesura?
- Is there a rhyme scheme?
- Has the poet used repetition?
- Are any words linked by rhyme, repetition or alliteration?
- Why are they linked?
- What connections can you make between the way this poem is laid out and its themes and ideas?

Poetic techniques:

- Which poetic techniques are used in the poem?
- Which techniques are used the most?
- What effect do these techniques have?
- Is the poem written in 1st, 2nd or 3rd person?
- What effect does the technique have on the poem?
- How do specific techniques link to meanings in the poem?