

Poetry Analysis 101

What do you need to know about each poem?

Subject

- what is it about?

How is the subject presented?

- tells a story (narrative)
- descriptive - lots of imagery
- conversational tone, as if talking to someone
- reflective - thinking about someone/something

Form/structure - what does it look like on the page? How does it flow?

- Stanzas - how many? Length of each? Are any different and, if so, why?
- Is there a rhyme scheme in each stanza? Describe it with letters if possible. Perfect rhymes? Near rhymes? Assonance, consonance etc?
- perspective
- sentence length
- temporal (time) changes etc. See Thinking Frame for further ideas.

Language

- How is language used to affect the reader or help them to imagine what the poet is writing about?

You've probably already mentioned some literary devices but write about more of them here.

Personal response

- What do you think of the poem? How does it affect you?

Quotations

- Explain what they show/how they affect the reader/what they make you think etc.