

Poetry Analysis—TP-CASTT

Title:

What might the poem be about? What clues does the title give? What meaning(s) does it have?

Paraphrase:

What is the literal meaning of the poem? Try to understand what is happening in the poem, And try to paraphrase it in your own words (same number of lines) or summarize it.

Connotation:

What is the emotional meaning of the words and poetic devices? How do they contribute to the poem? Look at things like imagery, simile, metaphor, personification, symbolism, diction, point of view, alliteration, onomatopoeia, rhythm, and rhyme.

Attitude:

The details of the poem may suggest the speaker's attitude and convey tone.

Shifts:

The poem may have a shift (change) in speaker and attitude, beginning in one place and ending in another as the poet understands some truth or has some insight into the subject.

Clues to shifts:

- words such as yet, however, although, still
- dashes, periods, colons, ellipsis
- stanza divisions
- changes in line or stanza length
- irony
- changes in sound (change in meaning)
- changes in diction

Title: Check the title again on an interpretive level. What new meaning does it have now?

Theme: What insight into life does the poem have? What subject does the poem speak about and what have you learned about it? What message is the poet conveying?