

Annotation Specific to Poetry

Directions: Complete the following steps as directed for each of the poems or passages from plays.

1. Preview the poem/passage. What do you see? How many lines? How is it written (lines of poetry or in paragraphs)? This is just first reaction: long, short, no divisions, etc.
2. Draw a slash mark at the end of a sentence or divide the passage with a line across the page. Number the sentences.
3. Circle the colons and semicolons. Notice that in these sentences, the colon or semicolon may divide independent clauses. This may help in understanding the poem/passage.
4. Put a **box** around any words you do not know. Eventually you may need to find the definition if you cannot determine the meaning from the context.
5. Circle any words that signal a shift, either in tone or argument. What does the poem shift from and to?
6. Paraphrase the stanzas or sentences, depending on how the poem is organized.
7. How is the poem/passage organized: by paragraphs, stanzas, quatrains, couplets, repeated patterns? Does the organization contribute to meaning or contribute to the content and effect?
8. Does the poem/passage rhyme? Within the rhyme scheme, do you see approximate or slant rhyme? Do the rhyme sounds somehow contribute to meaning and effect?
9. Which literary devices are used? Look for those in the poem/passage as you read and mark by using parentheses or brackets. Make notes concerning the effect of the device in the margins.
10. What thematic ideas are addressed in the poem? Write a thematic statement using the following frame statement.

This/These poem(s) are about _____ and how _____
_____ even though/when _____.