

Steps for Sonnet Analysis

*Complete the following steps for sonnet analysis:
(Answer on your own paper)*

1. Look up any and ALL unfamiliar words.
2. What is the subject of the poem?
3. What does the title of the poem suggest?
4. Paraphrase the poem—Denotation what does the author **literally** say?
5. What is the form of the poem? (stanza structure?)—How does this affect the meaning?
What is “going on” in each stanza? The author’s idea or purpose?
6. Circle diction—patterns? What connotative words does the author use? What feelings is he expressing or trying to evoke with these words?
7. Figurative language and other literary devices—what is the effect? What images or feelings are implied or suggested by the use of these tools?
8. What is the tone? Does the tone shift? If there is more than one, which is the most important? Prevailing?
9. What is the poet’s attitude toward the subject?
10. What are the major ideas of the poem (abstract nouns like love, revenge, anger, ambition, etc...)
11. Message? (universal meaning?) What does the poem have to say about the human experience? (Ask yourself—what does the poem have to say about the major ideas—**Write a complete sentence to answer this question.**)
12. What does it have to do with you? Is there any significance in your own life?
This has nothing to do with analysis and everything to do with the reason we read poetry.