



# Analyzing Poetry

A wonderful tool to get started with analyzing poetry is to use the acronym: TPCASTT. Consider each letter and begin brainstorming and forming initial thoughts. Take note of these ideas as you ask yourself these questions while you close read the poem.

**Title**. What does the title suggest? What do you think the poem will be about looking only at the title?

**Paraphrase**. Rewrite the poem in your own words. Make it make sense to you. How do you understand it? What is the poem about?

**Connotation**. Does the poem have a meaning beyond the literal one? Things to think about: form, diction, imagery, point of view, interesting details, allusions, symbolism, figurative language, antithesis, sounds devices, irony, oxymoron, paradox, pun, sarcasm, and understatement.

**Attitude**. What is the speaker's attitude? Does the attitude of the author show through? Are those attitudes the same?

**Shift**. Are there shifts in tone, setting, and voice? If so, where do they occur? Is there a purpose to the shift? How does it contribute to the poem?

**Title**. Now that you have read the poem and thought about it in detail, does the title suggest anything new or different? How does the title contribute to your interpretation of the poem?

**Theme**. What is the overall theme? What message is the author/poem trying to convey? Is there a lesson?