

**Poetry Analysis TSP—FASTT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Poem: \_\_\_\_\_ Poet: \_\_\_\_\_ Period/Century: \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>T</b></p>	<p><b>TITLE</b> Anticipate Meaning. Questions?</p>	
<p><b>S</b></p>	<p><b>SPEAKER</b> Speaking to...? Situation?</p>	
<p><b>P</b></p>	<p><b>PARAPHRASE</b> What's it about? <i>One-three sentences</i></p>	
<p><b>F</b></p>	<p><b>FIGURATIVE DEVICES</b> Look beyond the literal at <i>figurative</i> and <i>sound</i> devices. Give examples. How do they affect meaning, feeling?</p>	
<p><b>A</b></p>	<p><b>ATTITUDE</b> Analyze narrator's and/or poet's attitude (TONE)</p>	
<p><b>S</b></p>	<p><b>SHIFTS</b> Note shifts in tone, subject, speaker, situation, or diction.</p>	
<p><b>T</b></p>	<p><b>TITLE</b> Re-consider the meaning of the title.</p>	
<p><b>T</b></p>	<p><b>THEME(s)</b> What is the poem saying? What is "message?"</p>	

## Poetry Terms to Know

**Alliteration**—the repetition of *beginning* consonant (and sometimes vowel) sounds.

**Allusion**—an indirect reference to a mythological, literary or historical person, place or thing.

**Apostrophe**—a form of personification in which the absent or dead persons, concepts or ideas, inanimate objects are spoken to directly as if they were present, real persons.

**Assonance**—the repetition of vowel sounds in a series of words.

**Conceit**—very elaborate comparisons between unlikely objects. The metaphysical poets such as John Donne were criticized for “yoking” together outrageous teams. See Donne’s “The Flea”

**Consonance**—the repetition of a consonant sound with a series of words to produce a harmonious effect.

**Diction**—word choice. Formal or informal? Slang or a dialect? If so, what is the purpose?

**Enjambment**—the running-on of the sense/meaning of one line of poetry into the next.

**Hyperbole**—a deliberate, extravagant and often outrageous exaggeration. It may be used for either serious or comic effect. “I’ve told you 10,000 times, don’t exaggerate.”

**Imagery**-(Figurative Language)—the use of *sensory* words/descriptions to represent things, actions, or ideas.

**Irony**— the contrast between the apparent meaning and the suggestion of a different meaning. It occurs in three varieties:

- *Verbal* irony is the result of a statement saying one thing while meaning the opposite. Its purpose is usually to criticize. “You look *wonderful* today!” when you look awful.
- *Situational* irony is when a situation turns out differently from what one would normally expect, though often the twist is oddly appropriate.
- *Dramatic* irony is when a character says or does something that has more or different meanings from what he thinks it means, though the audience and/or other characters *do* understand the full ramifications of the speech or action. *You* know that Juliet will awaken soon; Romeo doesn’t.

**Metaphor**—a comparison between two things without the use of like or as. The poet states that one thing is another. It is usually a comparison between something concrete and something abstract.

**Metonymy**—representing something by the name of another thing closely associated with it. (The Oval Office to mean the president, The Hill to indicate Congress.)

**Onomatopoeia**—the use of words in which the sounds seem to resemble the sounds they describe.

**Oxymoron**—a form of paradox that combines a pair of contrary terms into a single expression. It usually serves the purpose of shocking or surprising the reader into awareness. G. Carlin: “Jumbo shrimp”

**Paradox**—a situation or action or feeling that appears to be contradictory but on inspection turns out to be true or at least to make sense. Donne: “Death, thou shalt die.”

**Persona**—the “character” the writer assumes for the purpose of the work.

**Personification**—a kind of metaphor that gives inanimate objects or abstract ideas human characteristics or feelings.

**Pun** —a play on words that are identical or similar in sound but have sharply diverse meanings. Puns can have serious as well as humorous uses. “Well, upon my word!”

**Sarcasm**—a type of irony in which a person appears to be praising something but is actually insulting it. Its purpose is usually to injure, to hurt or, if satirical, to change.

**Simile**—a comparison of two different things or ideas through the use of the words like or as. It is a definitely stated comparison in which the poet says one thing is like another.

**Symbolism**—the use of one object to suggest another hidden object or idea.

**Synecdoche**—a form of metaphor in which a part of something is used to signify the whole or the whole can represent a part.

**Syntax**—the ordering of words into a particular pattern. If a poet shifts words from the usual word order you know you are dealing with an older style of poetry or a poet who wants to shift emphasis onto a particular word.

**Tone**—the attitude of the speaker. Remember that the voice need not be that of the poet. Is the tone is angry, sad, conversational, abrupt, wheedling, cynical, affected, satiric, etc.

**Understatement**—the opposite of hyperbole. It is a kind of irony that deliberately represents something as being much less than it really is. “He wasn’t as large as the Empire State Building.”

**Voice**—the “sound” of the author’s or narrator’s voice.