

TPCASTT - A New Method of Poetry Analysis

- A way to break down a poem so it's more manageable. It's also a way to make sure you don't miss anything in your analysis.

- Seven Steps:

1. Title
2. Paraphrase
3. Connotation
4. Attitude/Tone
5. Shift
6. Title (again!)
7. Theme

Title

Before you read, consider the title and what the poem might be about.

Note: don't just restate the title. Make an inference – what do you think the poem's tone will be? Will it be a happy poem? An angry poem? Why?

Paraphrase

This is the step where you make sure you understand what the poem is saying on a **literal level**. Look up any words you don't know and understand where the sentences end and begin. Paraphrase (translate in your own words) any lines or stanzas that are confusing or might be especially important.

Note: While some poems are short enough to translate line by line, many poems will be too long. In that case, try to break the poems up into sections and summarize each part.

Paraphrase

Connotation

This is where you examine the poem beyond the literal level. Look for the different tools the poet uses to craft his poem – look for figurative language, powerful imagery, and sound elements (rhythm, alliteration, rhyme schemes)

Attitude/Tone

Notice the speaker's tone and attitude. Is (s)he humorous? Sarcastic? In awe? (Look for **word choice** here if you're stuck.)

Shift

Notice any shifts in the speaker or attitude. All poems show some sort of **change** or transformation in order to have meaning – it's a matter of finding that change.

Title (Again)

Now that you've analyzed your poem on a literal and figurative level, return to the title. Are there any new insights you've gained? Now that you've examine the poem, why do you think the author chose that title?

Theme

Now that you've analyzed all aspects of the poem, you should be able to determine a subject (what the poem is about) and a theme (what the poem says about that subject).