

Poetry Drill

1. Read poem aloud twice.
2. Identify the rhetorical stance (SOAPStone)
 - Speaker
 - Occasion
 - Audience
 - Purpose--is the purpose of the speaker the same as that of the author?
 - Subject
 - tone
3. Identify literal level of meaning
 - Paraphrase aloud
 - Consider implication of title
4. Identify key examples of diction
 - Look up unfamiliar words
 - Consider sound (phonetic intensives, assonance, consonance, and alliteration)
 - Consider rhyme and repetition
 - Is the language euphonious or cacophonous?
 - Identify ambiguous words or phrases
 - Categorize the diction
 - Check for allusions
5. Identify key details
 - Identify sensory details--consider which senses they engage
6. Identify imagery
 - Categorize the imagery
 - Look for repetitions or extensions of images
7. Reread the poem.
 - Reconsider the subject--what is the subject of the poem at and beyond the literal level?
 - Reconsider SOAPStone.
 - Write a tentative thesis that explains the relationship between the thematic and the technical levels of the poem.
8. Characterize the language, i.e. formal, clinical, jargon
9. Identify syntactical patterns
 - Identify rhetorical devices (schemes and tropes)
 - Identify patterns of emphasis or repetition
10. Identify rhythm and meter
11. Reconsider relationship between theme and technique
12. Restate thesis