

Poetry Analysis Essay Outline

- I. Introduction
 - A. Attention-getter (question, quote, fact)
 - B. Title and Author of poem you are analyzing
 - C. Clear Thesis that names the key elements to be analyzed.
 - d. Example “In 'Nothing Gold Can Stay', poet Robert Frost touches upon the beauty of things that are new and young, through use of natural imagery, metaphor and allusion.:
 - e. If you have any trouble remember to refer to your Transitional Words Sheet.

- II. Body
 - A. Meaning and Message
 - i. Surface Meaning (what is happening in the poem?)
 - ii. Deeper Meaning (what is the poem actually about?)
 - iii. Theme (what is the message about life?)

 - B. Metaphor
 - i. What Metaphors are used?
 - ii. What are these metaphors referring to?
 - iii. Sentence frame: “The verse _____ is metaphor. This metaphor is illustrating that_____.”

 - C. Similes
 - i. What similes are being used?
 - ii. How are these comparisons affecting the message of the text?
 - iii. Sentence frame: “_____ is a simile comparing _____ to _____. This indicates that_____.”

 - D. Imagery
 - i. What forms of imagery are used?
 - ii. What sense are referred to?
 - iii. What emotions are invoked by those sensations?
 - iv. How do those emotions affect the mood and meaning of the poem?
 - v. Sentence Frame: “The poet is using the imagery by use of the sensory word _____. This brings to mind the sensation of _____. This sensation is associated with_____.”

 - E. Symbolism
 - i. Identify the symbol(s)
 - ii. Explain what they represent
 - iii. Sentence frame: “_____ is symbolic of_____. This is illustrates that_____.”

 - F. Allusions
 - i. Are there any allusions to other works, myths, or historical events?

- ii. How do these allusions change the meaning of the poem?
- iii. Sentence frame: “_____ is alluding to_____” or “_____ is referring to_____.”

III. Remember to use academic words, and refer to your academic words list if you have trouble.