

Understanding Poetry--Explication

PRHS English Department

Understanding poetry can be tricky for some readers. Thinking through the questions included in this graphic organizer will help you to better understand the poem.

Start by reading the poem, then think about each of the questions. Reread the poem again as you complete the graphic organizer.

1. How does the title affect your reading of and response to the poem?	
2. What is the poem about? Identify key phrases that help you to determine what the poem is about.	
3. What makes the poem interesting to read?	
4. Who is the speaker? What role does the speaker have in the poem?	
5. What effect does the poem have on you as a reader? Do you think the poet intended to have such an effect?	
6. What is distinct about the poet's use of language? Which words/phrases stand out to you?	
7. What is the overall theme or message?	