

# Analyzing Poetry with TPCASTT

<b><u>T</u>itle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Before reading, guess the poem's theme based on the title.</li><li>• Note that authors may hide clues in the title.</li></ul>
<b><u>P</u>araphrase</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Before analyzing, understand the poem's literal meaning.</li><li>• Avoid jumping to conclusions before grasping what happens in the poem.</li><li>• Paraphrase the poem in your own words, matching the number of sentences.</li><li>• Remember, this is a paraphrase, not a summary.</li></ul>
<b><u>C</u>onnotation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider poetic devices, not just emotional overtones, to understand a poem's meaning.</li><li>• Focus on imagery, figures of speech, diction, point of view, form, and sound devices.</li><li>• You don't need to identify all devices, only those that support your conclusions about the poem.</li></ul>
<b><u>A</u>ttitude (Tone)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore the speaker's attitudes (tone) by referring to the poem's diction, images, and details.</li><li>• Tone is often complex and cannot be captured with a single word (e.g., "angrily resigned," "sorrowfully complacent").</li></ul>
<b><u>S</u>hifts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Look for shifts using keywords (but, yet, however), punctuation, stanza divisions, changes in line or stanza length, irony, sound changes, and diction changes.</li></ul>
<b><u>T</u>itle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Re-examine the title for new insights to deepen your understanding of the poem.</li></ul>
<b><u>T</u>heme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify the poem's message about human experience or condition after considering the insights you gained, and state the main idea in a full sentence.</li></ul>