

## Annotating Poetry

Annotating is the act of marking up a text to bring attention to words, phrases, and structure that may have some importance to the overall mood or theme of a poem.

### Steps to Annotate a Poem

1. Initial reading of the poem. Write any questions that pop into your head while doing the initial reading.
2. Identify any words that you do not understand and look them up. Write the definitions on the poem.
3. Discover and mark rhyme scheme using a new letter for each end rhyme within the poem.
4. Count the amount of syllables in each line and mark the number at the end of the line.
5. Identify figurative language used within the poem. Think about the literal meaning of each figurative device.
6. Identify sound devices such as alliteration, assonance, and consonance. How does it impact the text?
7. Identify text that is repeated. Is there any reason the author would repeat the text?
8. Look closely at punctuation. Does it reveal anything about the speaker of the poem? (Example: Does it make them seem rambling, confident, or nervous?)
9. Circle any words that are impactful or interesting. Determine connotative meaning. Are there any patterns? What does it reveal about the speaker's attitude towards the topic?
10. Reread the poem. If you are still having a hard time understanding the poem, repeat the annotation process!

**Questions you should be able to answer after annotating a poem:**

1. What is the theme of the poem?
2. What kind of strategies does the author use to point out the theme?
3. What is the mood of the poem?
4. What kind of strategies does the author use to make the mood clear?
5. How does the figurative language impact the poem as a whole?
6. How does the punctuation/number of syllables/ rhyme scheme impact the poem as a whole?