

Poetry Analysis Short-Answer Test

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Answer each question. Use complete sentences when an explanation is requested.

1. Identify the speaker before identifying the poet: why?
2. How can a title affect interpretation?
3. What should support a claim about theme?
4. Why examine repeated words?
5. How can punctuation affect pacing?
6. How can line breaks create emphasis?
7. What is the difference between summary and analysis?
8. Why consider historical context carefully?
9. What does it mean to analyze a device rather than merely identify it?
10. What makes textual evidence effective?

Teacher Answer Key

1. The speaker is a constructed voice and may not equal the poet
2. It frames expectations and can gain new meaning after reading
3. Specific textual evidence and reasoning
4. Repetition often signals emphasis, pattern, tone, or theme
5. It controls pauses, speed, syntax, and emphasis
6. They can isolate words, create suspense, double meanings, or enjambment
7. Summary tells what happens; analysis explains how/why textual choices create meaning
8. Context can illuminate meaning but should not replace evidence in the poem
9. Explain its effect and contribution to meaning
10. It is relevant, specific, accurately interpreted, and connected to the claim

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