

Poetry analysis

Poetry, as you know, is in the eye of the beholder. What to one person might be incredibly moving can be abrasive to another. It is therefore important to learn to analyze poetry in order to have a better understanding of the poet's intention when writing the piece. The activities in this document will focus on how to analyze poetry, as well as ask you to find a piece of your own to work with.

Step 1: How do you analyze a poem?

Great question! Poetry analysis, much like poetry, is highly subjective. There are, however, some rules and elements that most experts agree on.

1. Observe the poem. Is it short? Long? Does it have pictures or images? How many stanzas or lines are there?
2. Read the poem.
3. What stands out? Is there a rhyme scheme or is it free verse? Take notes as you start breaking down the poem, one verse at a time.
4. Make connections. What connections is the author making within the text? What connections can you make between the text and what you know about poetry? What connections can you make between the text and the world around you?

5. Determine the main idea of the poem. What point is the poet trying to make? Do you think they are successful?
6. Identify any poetic devices. Why do you think the author chose to include them in the text?
7. Give your appreciation. Did you like the poem? Justify your answer using the text.

Step 2: Poetry analysis

Using the steps outlined on the previous page, analyze this poem ([One Inch Tall - Shel Silverstein](#)). For question 6, concentrate on the use of alliteration, figurative language, similes and metaphors.

Poetry analysis	
<i>One Inch Tall</i> by Shel Silverstein	
Observe the poem. What do you see?	
What stands out as you read?	
How is this poem written?	
Make connections: <input type="checkbox"/> To the text <input type="checkbox"/> Within the text <input type="checkbox"/> To the world around you	
What is the main idea of the poem?	
What poetic devices are used? Why?	
Give your appreciation of the poem.	