Analysing poetry
CSL – JUNE 2014

Surface meaning and deeper meaning

Does it have a message?

What is the poet discussing?

Is there an overall theme and idea in the poem?

LANGUAGE

what words has the poet used to create an image?

Are there any complicated words?

Is the language simple to understand?

Which words and phrases create the images? (Use quotations to prove your point).

STRUCTURE

(How many stanzas/verses)

How is the idea developed?

(what words or phrases give the images or theme emphasis or clarity)

What is the structure?

(line length/rhyme scheme? Is there any rhythm/repetition/enjambment?

IMAGERY

What pictures do you get in your mind when you read the poem?

Does the poem contain similes/metaphors or personification?

Why do you think the poet has included these images in the poem?

EFFECT

What is the effect of the poem?

What does the poem make you feel/think about?

What opinion does it show about the subject?

What is the poet trying to say about their subject?