

# Independent Reading Guide: Poetry

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions to the Student:** Use the questions below to clarify your understanding of and response to a poem. Reflect on each question before answering. If you are keeping a *Reader's Response Journal* or wish to start one, use one of the suggested activities to make an entry.

Poem Title \_\_\_\_\_ Poet \_\_\_\_\_

This poem was (circle one) assigned a personal selection.

This poem was found in the (circle one) textbook library other\_\_\_\_\_.

Circle the literary techniques the poet uses in this poem.

simile metaphor personification rhyme  
repetition onomatopoeia alliteration other\_\_\_\_\_

Circle the word that best describes the tone of the poem.

serious peaceful frantic sad frightening  
lively funny disturbing other\_\_\_\_\_

In this poem, the poet is attempting to (circle one or more)

tell a story create an image  
express a feeling or emotion other\_\_\_\_\_.

## Elements of the Poem

1. Give an example of a literary technique used by the poet. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Is the poem written in stanzas? If so, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How would I describe the rhythm of the poem? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Does the rhythm seem to match the message or meaning of the poem?

Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

5. How would I describe the mood of the poem? How does the poet establish this mood? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What do I think the poet wants me to know, feel, value, or believe?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Does a particular word or phrase carry important meaning for the poem? If so, which word or phrase and what meaning does it convey?

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## Response to the Poem

Rate this poem by circling the appropriate word.

- |   |      |      |        |
|---|------|------|--------|
| 8. The words appeal to my sense of sight, hearing, touch, taste, or smell.            | weak | fair | strong |
| 9. The meaning of this poem is clear and precise.                                     | weak | fair | strong |
| 10. I can feel the rhythm of the poem as I read it.                                   | weak | fair | strong |
| 11. I can easily connect the feelings or events in this poem with my own experiences. | weak | fair | strong |
| 12. Overall, I rate this poem as  | weak | fair | strong |

Reasons for my rating: \_\_\_\_\_

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13. What qualities did I like or dislike about this poem? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. What predictions and questions occurred to me as I read this poem? Were my predictions accurate? Were my questions answered?

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### *Reader's Response Journal*

- When you reread the poem, did you discover something that was not obvious upon your first reading? Explain your discovery and the reason it may have occurred.
- Copy a phrase, line, or passage from the poem, and then write a brief comment describing your feelings or thoughts about the passage.