I find no peace

Right from the start the intelligent reader can hear the repetition of the sound “I” that is an assonance in the title of the sonnet. “I find no peace” underlines the sound “I” which may record the sound of a cry for help. This is what the title may suggest and the reader is curious to find the reason why the speaking voice can “find no peace”. The title itself underlines the frustrated research for peace of the speaking voice since there is an absolute negation.  
The poet doesn’t say he cannot find any peace rather he asserts means to state vigorously that there is no peace in his life. So the question that might move the reader in reading the text is to find an answer in his question.

The layout clearly shows that the text is a sonnet since it is organised into four stanzas, two quatrains and two tercets, the typical structure of a Petrarchean sonnet. Therefor he expects he will discover about the poet’s complex situation in the octave, that is in the first two stanzas, and the possible solution in the two tercets. Indeed the sestet ends the poem which is of course a lyrical one. Just looking at the text without even reading it the reader will see the high density of the subject pronoun “I” and this is what makes him or her expect to read something lyrical, something personal and private.

In the first quatrain the speaking voice seems to have come to a sort of resignation after a long battle with himself in order to find peace, but it sounds as if it hadn’t been able to. To tell the truth he says that the hope burn and freeze thus convey contradictory emotions. He also says something that might sound absurd, he flies but he cannot arise. At the same time he says he had naught and all the world he seizes on.

After the denotative analysis of the first stanza the intelligent reader realises that all lines are based on contrast as the organising principle. “Find no peace” is in contrast with “war is done”. Fear is in contrast with hope and “ burn and freeze” are opposite. The principle he had chosen helps the reader almost to feel the complex emotional situation the poet is living. In addition the poet realises an hyperbole both in line three and four to made his more lively and involving. How can a person fly above the wind and at the same time being unable to “arise” (line 3), this is a paradox and the same paradox came back again in line four where the language deviation “naught I have” seem to be in total contradiction with the second part of the line where the speaking voice says “all the world I seize on”. The analysis of the stanza perfectly helps understand the almost vivid emotional sufferance of the speaking voice in that the reader feels he can almost proceed the pain of the speaker. The stylistic choices based on contrast bring together opposing words and feelings that are typical of an inner trague. Therefor the next step he or she wants to take is to find out what the matter is with him and he has to read on as far as line 11 to discover the mystery since as only there he will came across the reason of his tragic situation “I love another, and thus I hate myself”. The curiosity of the reader has to follow the climatic construction of the sonnet since it is only at line 11 that the poet unveils the reason and the mystery of his apparently contradictory feeling, one which all lover will experiment soon or later.