GUIDE LINES FOR THE ANALYSIS OF POETRY

Step 1: Consider the expectations or the congettures you can make reading the title. There is no correct or incorrect answer because you have still to read the poem. It is also important to consider the atmosphere the title may create.

Read the text.

Step 2: Consider and analyze the layout (decide what is structure is like: What are its component parts connected).

Step 3: Carry out a denotative analysis: Say, in your own words, what the poem is about.

Step 4: Analyze all the layers of connotations:

 1. Consider the sound devices used by the poet and explain its function.

 2. Consider the lexical choices and the semantic feels chosen by the poet. Also consider the verb tenses choices and the over all effect created by that style. Remember you have to explain how the contribute to the meaning of the text.

 3. Consider the synctatical level, that is, the order in which the words have been arranged. Also consider punctuation, the order of words (deviation).

 4. Analyze the figures of speech (metaphores and figures of all types) to see how they had meaning or contribute to the meaning of the text.