

NAME: _____

Mapping a Poem

Step 1 → Read the poem OUT LOUD.

Step 2 → Number the lines down the *left-hand* side of the poem and identify any rhyme scheme on the *right-hand* side of the poem.

Step 3 → Highlight all *punctuation* in yellow and all *capitalization* in pink.

Step 4 → Divide into sections.

Step 5 → Circle any unfamiliar vocabulary. Define these words on the back of the poem.

Step 6 → Identify and label any metaphors, similes, personification or other poetic devices.

Now...you are ready to analyze the poem.

TP-CAST: Poetry Analysis

- Title** Ponder the title. It is often the key to meaning. What comes to mind when you read the title?
- Paraphrase** For each section, translate the plot into your own words. Do this on the literal level. What is happening in each section?
- Connotation** Poems have multiple layers of meaning. Once you've written down the plot on the literal level, contemplate the poem for figurative meaning; what is the significance of the *metaphors, similes, and other poetic devices* you identified? Identify the techniques used and EXPLAIN what you see them contributing to the poem; trust your opinion!
- Audience** What is the audience for this poem? To whom does the speaker seem to be addressing? What type of individual/group
- Shift/
Speaker** Who is the speaker of the poem? (1st person, 3rd person, etc.) Note all the shifts in tone, speakers, settings, and even sounds. Rarely does a poem begin and end in the same place. How does the poem progress?
- Tone** This means MOOD. What is the writer's and/or speaker's attitude towards the subject? Does it change or remain the same? This is often the key to interpreting a theme.
- Theme** Determine what the poem is saying; recognize the human experience, motivation, or condition suggested by the poem. Remember that theme is a complete statement of the human condition. What is the poem saying about life and what it means to be human? There can be more than one correct answer, but you must be able to back up your theme with evidence from the poem.