“*If I physically feel as if the top of my head were taken off, I know that is poetry” Emily Dickinson*

**POETRY: Condensed. Concentrated. Intense. Dense. Sharp.**

**Questions to Ask When You Read Poetry**

**Surface Level (S)**

**(Read the poem once through. Best case scenario: read it out loud)**

***Vocabulary***

S.1. Are there any unfamiliar words or concepts? If so, define them.

***Point of View***

S.2. Who is the speaker or speakers?

***Characterization***

S.3. Who are the characters in the poem?

***Plot***

S.4. What is the subject or situation in the poem? In other words, sum up the basic idea of the poem in a few sentences.

S.5. Is there a conflict (conflicts) in the poem? Man v. man, man v. self, man v. nature, man v. society…

***Setting***

S.6. When do the events take place?

S. 7. Where do the events take place?

**Deeper Level (D)**

**(Time to read the poem for the second time)**

***Sound Techniques***

D. 8. Is there **meter** to the poem? Is it regular? If so, please mark the appropriate syllables above the poem.

D.9. Is there a **rhyme scheme**? If so, what is it? Mark it directly on the page using alphabet letters, as taught. Are there any internal or slant rhymes? If so, mark them.

D. 10. Are there any **repetitions or patterns** in the poem (aside from rhyme scheme)? Are certain words or phrases repeated? Why do you think the poet used this repetition?

D. 11. Is there **Onomatopoeia** in the poem? Show all examples.

D. 12. Is there **Assonance** in the poem (scream and beach)? Show all examples.

D. 13. Is there **Alliteration** in the poem (“A king could quote Shakespeare”)? Show all examples.

D. 14. Is there **Consonance** in the poem(leaves and lives)? Show all examples.

***Imagery***

D.15. Give examples of **imagery of sight** and tell why it was effective.

D. 16. Give all examples of **imagery of sound** and tell why it was effective.

D. 17. Give all examples of **imagery of touch** and tell why it was effective.

D. 18. Give all examples of **imagery of taste** and tell why it was effective.

D. 19. Give all examples of **imagery of smell** and tell why it was effective.

***Figurative Language***

D.20. Give any examples of **Similes** and tell why they are effective. What is being compared in each?

D.21. Give any examples of **Metaphors** and tell why they are effective. What is being compared in each?

D.22. Give any examples of **Hyperbole** and tell why they are effective.

D.23. Give any examples of **Personification** and tell why they are effective.

D.24. Give any examples of **Irony** and tell why they are effective.

D.25. Give any examples of **Hyperbole** and tell why they are effective.

D.26. Give any examples of **Paradox** and tell why they are effective.

D.27. Give any examples of **Symbolism** and tell why they are effective.

***Form***

D.28. Does the poem use **end stop** or **enjambment**?

D.29. Does the poem follow a pre-defined form? Some examples could be ballad, haiku, Tanka, sonnet, free verse, blank verse, ode... You will have to define the form and demonstrate how your poem fits the definition. If the poem does not exactly fit the definition of one of these forms, does it nonetheless echo one of these forms? For example, is it similar to a sonnet in that there are 14 lines, but it is unrhymed?

D. 30. Is the poem **lyrical** or **narrative**?

D. 31. What is the poem’s **tone or mood?**

D. 32. Is there a **tone shift** in the poem? When and why do you think the author changed tone?

**Application Level (A)**

**Time to read the poem for the third time**

A.33. What are some themes that the poem is trying to convey?

A. 34. Is this a universal theme? In other words, does it speak to all people in all times and places?

A. 35. What specific lines from the poem contribute to the development of the theme?

**Evaluation Level (E)**

E.36. What feeling or effect is created in the reader by the poem?

E.37. What is the strongest element(s) which the poet utilizes to gain his/her effect? (get you to see or know what he/she wants you to see or know)? For example, does imagery rule in the poem? Or form? Is the effect mostly created by the constant use of metaphor?

E.38. Did the poem speak to you personally? Why or why not?