

Outline of a poetic text

The following outline will help you recall all that you have studied in the section devoted to poetry as a literary genre. You can refer to it any time you have to analyse a poetic text on your own, or prepare for an oral/written test. A final guideline is also given about the importance of contextualizing the text and expressing personal response.

Data of the poem	Author _____ Title _____ Taken from _____ Date _____
References	The title relevant to meaning? _____ The content addresser/addressee; setting in time and place; situation _____ Layout traditional, experimental _____ Poetic form sonnet, ballad, ode, dramatic poem, free verse _____
Sound devices	Rhyme regular, irregular, hints at/emphasizes words, creates musical / comic effect _____ Stress and rhythm foot, run-on-line, end-stopped-line; the rhythm is slow, fast, smooth, hammering, flowing _____ Caesura underlines key words or concepts, marks a change in mood _____
Analysis of language	Use of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alliteration _____ • assonance _____ • repetition _____ • onomatopoeia _____ • quality of sound harsh, smooth, soft, _____ • grating, gentle _____ Effect/s of sound devices on meaning _____
The message	Semantic areas _____ Linguistic register lofty, colloquial, straightforward _____ Key-words _____ Turning-point/s and climax _____ Tone neutral, ironic, tragic, committed, regretful, humorous, bitter, melancholic _____
From text to context	Theme/s The poem deals with / is concerned with universal / existential / social / moral / psychological theme/s; the main theme is _____ Poet's style clear / straightforward / vivid / detailed / imaginative / elegant _____ Poet's aim satirises / criticises / outlines / shows / focuses on / appeals to _____ The poem opens with..., the first stanza sets the tone / the pattern, the second stanza introduces the theme of, is based upon, the last stanza sums up _____ Ties between the text and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the collection it belongs to _____ • the author's biography and works _____ • the literary context _____ • the historical and social context _____ • other texts belonging to the same or different periods _____
Personal response	Reader's reaction/s _____ Possible connections between a picture and the text _____