



# TPCASTT



## Poetry Analysis Method

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- ▶ A method for reading and analyzing poetry.
- ▶ A TPCASTT reading takes you through seven specific steps so that you analyze the poem as thoroughly as possible.



# Step 1: T is for TITLE

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- ▶ First, look at the TITLE of the poem and ask yourself these two questions:
  - ▶ “What does the TITLE of the poem mean?”
  - ▶ “Based on the TITLE, what might the poem be about?”



## Step 2: P is for PARAPHRASE

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- ▶ After you read the poem, PARAPHRASE it by putting what you read into your own words.
- ▶ When you PARAPHRASE a poem, you restate poem's plot points.



## Step 3: C is for CONNOTATION

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- ▶ **CONNOTATION:** n. the ideas or meanings associated with a word or suggested by it.
- ▶ In order to complete this step, you find the literary devices used in the poem and their possible deeper meanings.
- ▶ Some important literary devices to look for:
  - ▶ Imagery
  - ▶ Metaphors
  - ▶ Similes
  - ▶ Symbols
  - ▶ Personification



## Step 4: A is for ATTITUDE

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- ▶ ATTITUDE addresses the speaker's tone and word choice.
- ▶ Ask yourself these questions in order to determine what the ATTITUDE of the speaker is:
  - ▶ “What is the speaker's ATTITUDE toward the poem's subject?”
  - ▶ “Why does the speaker use certain words?”



## Step 5: S is for SHIFT

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- ▶ Poems typically SHIFT before the conclusion is reached.
- ▶ Look for SHIFTS in the following areas:
  - ▶ Transition words
  - ▶ Punctuation
  - ▶ Stanza division
  - ▶ Changes in length (lines and/or stanzas)
  - ▶ Change in rhyme
  - ▶ Change in tone



## Step 6: T is for TITLE

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- ▶ Return to thinking about the TITLE now that you have read and analyzed the poem and ask yourself these questions:
  - ▶ “Has the TITLE’s meaning changed?”
  - ▶ “What is the TITLE’s significance?”





## Step 7: T is for THEME

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- ▶ To complete this final step, read back through Steps 1-6 and determine the central idea or insight of the poem.



# Steps 1-7: TPCASTT

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- ▶ T: Title
- ▶ P: Paraphrase
- ▶ C: Connotation
- ▶ A: Attitude
- ▶ S: Shift
- ▶ T: Title
- ▶ T: Theme

