

TP-CASTT Analysis

TP-CASTT analysis is a method of reading poetry that will help you to get a deeper understanding of a poem. First and foremost, it is a reading process, so you need to **follow all the steps in order!!!!**

Before you read the poem...

T- TITLE – Write down the title of the text. Consider the possible meanings of the title. Bear in mind that a title can have multiple meanings. Write down one or two ideas about what the title suggests.

Read the poem **FIRST**, then...

P – PARAPHRASE – Divide the poem into sentences according to the punctuation. Put each sentence into your own words. Be sure you know what all the pronouns refer to and what all the words mean. If the poem is in standard English, write a brief summary of the events of the poem.

Now, consider...

C – CONNOTATION – What do the words the poet uses suggest beyond their dictionary definition, or denotation? What literary devices, such as metaphor, simile, and symbol does the poet use? What is the effect of each of the literary devices? First, identify literary devices – metaphors, similes, personification, symbolism, point of view, diction, and sound devices like alliteration, rhythm and rhyme – and then explain what the effect of the use of these devices is on the meaning of the poem. For example, if a poet is using a metaphor, what is the overlap between the subject of the metaphor and the object it's being compared to? What does the metaphor reveal about the author's tone?

A – ATTITUDE – Also known as tone. 1). What is the speaker's attitude? 2). What is the poet's?

S – SHIFTS – Where does the poem change? Changes can occur in speaker, attitude, subject, or mood. Look for change words like BUT, YET, HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH, NEVERTHELESS. Look for stanza breaks, changes in speaker, changes in diction, and changes in punctuation.

T- TITLE again – Reconsider the title. What meaning now seems appropriate? Could the title be ironic? Does the title give you a better idea of the meaning?

And most important:

T- THEME – what is the greater idea being expressed in the poem?

TOPIC	YOUR RESPONSE
Title: read the title and comment on it before reading the poem.	The title seems very straightforward; the poem will probably be about a writer talking to her book. I wonder if the book will talk back?
Paraphrase: write a short summary of the poem in the space provided. If the poem is not in standard English, write a complete paraphrase on a separate sheet of paper.	I had to do a complete paraphrase(attached) because the language was hard. But basically, the poem is written as if a mother is talking to her child. She has mixed feelings about her child – it's been shown in the world, which made her embarrassed, so she had to clean it up and try to fix it. However, she couldn't make it better, so she just had to send it out into the world with excuses. Based on the title, I think the speaker is using the child to stand for her book.
Connotations: what do the words and literary devices suggest?	The main literary device of this poem is the extended metaphor between the child and that book. Examples: "ill-formed offspring of my feeble brain" suggests book isn't well put together "snatched"(kidnapped), in rags, suggests book is poor, badly written "Rambling brat" suggests her book is out of her control It's "irksome" – annoying Trying to fix: washing its face, rubbing off spots, straightening legs Dressing in "homespun cloth" – plain, simple, not fancy
Attitude: What is the speaker's attitude in the poem? What about the author's?	The speaker loves her "child" but is also a little embarrassed and disappointed in it.
Shifts: where do the poem change? What do think is changing?	The poem shifts when she decides to fix up her/child book and tries to make it pretty and then it shifts again when she realizes her efforts aren't working and she's just going to have to send it out as is, with an apology for readers and critics.
Title: revisit the title. What do you think it means after you've read the whole poem?	Title definitely is key to the meaning, since it sets up a metaphor, comparing the author/book relationship to mother/child
Theme: what big idea is the author communicating through this poem?	Bradstreet shows that the emotions of a writer echo the feelings of a parent sending their child out into the world, feeling anxious about how the book/child will fare now that it's been flung out of the nest.

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Theme: what big idea is the author communicating through this poem?	

The Author to Her Book
By Anne Bradstreet

Thou ill-formed offspring of my feeble brain,
Who after birth did'st by my side remain,
Till snatched from thence by friends, less wise than true,
Who thee abroad, exposed to public view,
Made thee in rags, halting to th' press to trudge,
Where errors were not lessened (all may judge).
At thy return my blushing was not small,
My rambling brat (in print) should mother call.
I cast thee by as one unfit for light,
Thy visage was so irksome in my sight;
Yet being mine own, at length affection would
Thy blemishes amend, if so I could:
I washed thy face, but more defects I saw,
And rubbing off a spot still made a flaw.
I stretched thy joints to make thee even feet,
Yet still thou run'st more hobbling than is meet;
In better dress to trim thee was my mind,
But nought save homespun cloth, i' th' house I find.
In this array 'mongst Vulgars may'st thou roam.
In critic's hands beware thou dost not come,
And take thy way where yet thou art not known;
If for thy Father asked, say thou hadst none;
And for thy Mother, she alas is poor,
Which caused her thus to send thee out of door.

Paraphrase:

You deformed child of my weak brain, who stayed by my side after your birth, until you were taken from my side by true friends who aren't wise, who took you out and exposed you to the public, and made you walk in rags to the press, where your mistakes/deformities were not lessened. When you came back, I was embarrassed to be called your mother.
I put you aside, because I was annoyed by your face.
But, since you were mine, eventually my love made me try to fix you up, if I could.
I washed your face, but saw more problems, and rubbing off a spot seemed to make it worse.
I stretched your joints to make your feet even (a reference to poetic feet, perhaps?) but you still limp more than is appropriate.
I wanted to dress you better, but I could only find plain cloth
In this outfit, you have to go out in public.
Be careful to stay away from critics and go where you aren't known.
If anyone asks you for your father, say you don't have one.
And your mother is poor, which caused her to send you out into the world.