

Name: _____

Analyzing Poetry for Mood

Complete the questions below to guide you through the process of analyzing poetry for symbolism.

1. Read the poem from start to finish without stopping. Underneath the poem, write down your first impressions. What do you think the poem is about? What emotions does it evoke?
2. Read the poem again, but this time underline any words you don't understand. Look those words up in a dictionary and write the definitions next to the term.
3. Circle any words in the poem that you think could tell you what the mood is.

Now that you've found some words to focus on, answer the following questions to figure out what the mood of the poem may be:

- Does the word remind you of or is associated with certain emotions? Which emotions, and why?
- Are any colors mentioned in the poem, and what emotions are those colors associated with?
- Are there any actions mentioned in the poem that are associated with particular emotions?
- Is there weather mentioned in the poem, and what emotions is that weather associated with?
- Are there historical events mentioned in the poem? What emotions may people associate with those historical events? Do different people associate different emotions with that event? Consider how the poet's life may affect the emotions associated with that event.

Once you've asked yourself these questions, determine which of your answers make the most sense in the context of the rest of the poem.

Finally, reread the poem for the third time. Now that you've thought critically about the potential mood, write down what you think the poem means. Does it match your original interpretation? Why or why not?