**Poetry Annotation 101**

Poems use much fewer words to convey meaning. Therefore, it is helpful to examine the words closely to make sure you understand exactly what the author is trying to say.

Make inferences, and read between the lines!

**ANNOTATION STEPS**

1. Read the poem once, and write down your **GUT REACTION** in the poem package.
2. Scan the poem for any **WORDS** you don’t know and circle them. Then **DEFINE** these words, and place the definitions in the margins.

 *(Tip . . . always look for words with double meanings!)*

1. Read the poem again, and write down the **MAIN IDEAS** on the poem package. What are the **THEMES**?
2. Annotate each line of the poem looking for **DEEPER MEANING**.

 *(Tip . . . always identify important lines, words, and ideas. Fully explain them in the margins.)*

1. Deeper meaning is often found in the **POETIC DEVICES**. Underline all the poetic devices, and identify them in the margins.

 Write down each poetic device along with its line number on the poem package. Then fully explain the purpose and impact of each poetic device!

*(Tip . . . always refer to your sheet on Poetic Devices.)*

1. Identify the **MESSAGE** of the poem!

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