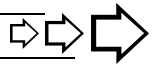


# **BIG Idea:**

Poets use words and images to communicate about a theme.

# **BIG question:**

How do you read a poem?



## **NWEA Poetry Interpretation**

The following competencies are specified for poems.

**Compares content/concepts**

**Analyzes the mood**

**Identifies specific forms**

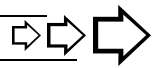
Analyzes poems to **determine the main idea**

**Compares** poems to determine the **common theme**

Analyzes poems to **identify the theme** or main idea

**Identifies the mood** in a poem

**Infers the author's viewpoint**

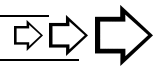


**POETRY INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS**

**Before/At Beginning of Reading**      What kinds of things does a poet do to write a good poem?

Students should read a poem at least two times so they appreciate it and then interpret it.

<b>After First Reading</b>	<b>After Second Reading</b>
<p><b>Infer from Context</b>                      What does the word _____ mean?  <i>Why do you think so?</i></p> <p><b>Analyze Mood</b>                      How does the poet want you to feel?  <i>Why do you think that?</i></p> <p><b>Analyze Structure</b>                      Why does the poet start with the first sentence—what does the poet want you to think about because of that first sentence?                      Why does the poet end with the last sentence?                      What does the poet want to be sure you think about because of that last part?</p> <p><b>Identify/Infer the Main Idea or Theme</b>                      What is the main idea or theme of the poem?                      State it in a sentence.  <i>What parts of the poem communicate that theme?</i></p>	<p><b>Identifies specific form of poem</b>                      Which kind of poem is it?                      (limerick, haiku, sonnet are examples).                      How do you know?</p> <p><b>Analyze Author’s Techniques</b>                      What technique does the writer use?                      rhyme                      repetition                      irony                      sensory language                      simile                      metaphor                      symbolism                      figurative language</p> <p><i>How does that technique help the poet communicate the idea or theme of the poem?</i></p> <p><b>Compare this poem to another poem or to a story with a similar theme.</b>  <i>How are they alike?</i>  <i>How are they different?</i></p>

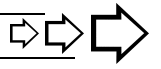


## POEM LESSON PLAN EXAMPLE with gradual release of responsibility across the week.

FOCUS Questions: How do poets communicate their ideas? How do readers interpret a poem?

Common Core Anchor Standards: 1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text. 2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas. 4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone. (Insert standards specific to your grade level.)

Preview Model Interest	Model and GUIDE	GUIDE and go farther	ASSESS and Clarify	Fix Go Deeper Finish well
Target: Explain how a poem is different from other kinds of literature.	Target: Analyze poem to determine its theme.	Target: Analyze how a poet communicates a theme	Target: Demonstrate and expand poetry interpretation competence	Target: Expand poetry interpretation competence
<p>I DO: Read first stanza of poem aloud. Think out loud—How is a poem different from a story?</p> <p>WE DO: Guides students to notice figurative language, other techniques used: alliteration, rhyme, repetition.</p> <p>YOU DO Choose your favorite parts of the poem. Tell what you like about how the poet communicates.</p> <p><b>Check for Understanding:</b> Start poet's glossary: Include the terms identified in the analysis: alliteration onomatopoeia rhyme repetition stanza</p>	<p>I DO: Think out loud—how do I infer the theme of a poem—how does the writer communicate it?</p> <p>WE DO: Read poem and think out loud with the students: What is the theme of the poem? How does the poet help me understand it?</p> <p>YOU DO: Re-read poem and list evidence for the theme. <i>Draw a picture</i> of what poet "says" in poem to communicate the theme. Share/compare.</p> <p><b>Check for understanding:</b> continue poet's glossary: theme interpret</p>	<p>I DO: List steps to interpret a poem—read it once to appreciate the poem; read it again to infer theme; read it 3<sup>rd</sup> time to identify techniques used to communicate theme.</p> <p>WE DO: Analyze different poem, steps 1, 2, 3.</p> <p>YOU DO: Picture a poem-- show the poet's idea. Make a "key" to your picture-- Theme Images</p> <p><b>Check for Understanding:</b> Write your own directions: how to interpret a poem.</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT S: Independently read another poem. Identify theme. List ways the writer has communicated it.</p> <p>T: Check for Understanding— circulate and guide individuals needing assistance.</p> <p>Think Out Loud with Class or group: clarify any points students did not "get".</p> <p><b>Students needing support:</b> Pair and compare lists, add more evidence of ways the poet communicates the theme.</p> <p><b>Advanced Students:</b> Write about poem— letter to the poet or extended response—how did this poet create a mood or tone?</p>	<p><b>Students needing support:</b> Read a new poem, use poem reader (graphic organizer) to show how the parts communicate a theme.</p> <p><b>Advanced Students:</b> Write your poetry guide-- to reading a poem—use a different poem— could be a poem you write!</p> <p><b>Class Synthesis:</b> What have we learned about interpreting poems? (Can be a guide to interpreting a poem.)</p>



## Poem Interpreter

This page develops CCSSR Anchor Standard—Key Ideas and Information: 2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas. The next page develops the analysis of author’s craft and structure.

A poet is like a painter. The poet uses words to help you understand a theme or message.

Poem: \_\_\_\_\_

What do you like most about this poem?

---

---

**Draw a picture to illustrate the poem. Show what you think the poet’s message is.**

✓ What is the theme of the poem—what is the poet’s message?

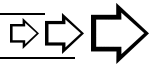
---

Why do you think that is the message the poet wants you to understand? Give examples from the poem that support your interpretation.

---

---

---



**Poem Analyzer** *Italicized items are NWEA specifications.*

Read a poem three times.

**First time, enjoy it!**

CCSSR1. **Read closely** to determine what the text says **explicitly** and to **make logical inferences** from it; **cite specific textual evidence** when writing or speaking to **support conclusions** drawn from the text.

Note what you like about the poem.

Draw a picture that shows what you see when you read it.

**Second Time: Interpret It.**

CCSSR2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

*(191) Analyzes poem to determine main idea. (NWEA uses main idea and theme.)*

What is the theme? \_\_\_\_\_

What is one statement from the poem that best represents that theme or main idea?

*(221) Evaluates statements to choose the one which best represents the main idea of a poem*

\_\_\_\_\_

How does the author feel about the topic? \_\_\_\_\_

*(191) Infers author's viewpoint (term not used) in poems.*

What does the writer include that tells you that? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Third Time, Analyze how the writer helps you understand the poem.**

CCSSR4. **Interpret words and phrases** as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

What is the mood of the poem?*(181)* \_\_\_\_\_

List one line that shows that mood. *(181)* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

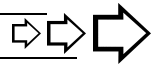
Look for examples of these kinds of words and phrases. List one you find (if you find it).

Tell what it means.

simile (181)	
metaphor (201)	
image (201)	

**Think More** Explain how the writer helps you understand the poem. (191)

**Do More** Write your own poem about the same theme.



**EXPANDED POEM ANALYZER** CCSSR Anchor Standards—Craft and Structure

4. **Interpret words and phrases** as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
5. **Analyze the structure of texts**, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger parts of the text relate to each other and the whole.

*A poet uses techniques. Look for examples of these techniques in the poem.*

Technique	Example
alliteration	
metaphor	
simile	
narrator	
rhyme	
symbol	
repetition	
onomatopoeia	

**Think about these questions.** Give evidence to support your answers.

- ✓ Choose a line you think is very important. What is the line?

\_\_\_\_\_

Why is that line important? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- ✓ What is the mood of the poem—the feeling it has—happy, sad, calm, another feeling?

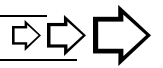
\_\_\_\_\_

How does the poet give the poem that mood?

\_\_\_\_\_

**EXCEED:**

> Write about the poem. How it is like a story you have read or an experience you had?



## Compare a Poem and a Story

CCSSR9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Poem: \_\_\_\_\_

Story: \_\_\_\_\_

Write or draw a symbol to show what the poet's message is.

Write or draw a symbol to show the story's message.

How did the poet communicate that message?

How did the story writer communicate that message?

**How are**