

## TP-CASTT

Realizing the importance of poetry lies in understanding meaning and how technique enhances meaning...

TP-CASTT - an acronym for title, paraphrase, connotation, attitude, shift, title (again), and theme - is designed to help you remember the concepts to consider when examining a poem.

<i>Title</i>	Ponder the title and make a prediction before reading the poem.
<i>Paraphrase</i>	Translate the poem into your own words - to better help you understand the "plot."
<i>Connotation</i>	Contemplate the poem for meaning beyond the literal. Consider all poetic devices, focusing on how such devices contribute to the meaning, the effect, or both of a poem. Figurative language (simile, metaphor, and personification), symbolism, diction, point of view, and sound devices (alliteration, onomatopoeia, rhythm, and rhyme). Also - explain how these devices enhance meaning and effect.
<i>Attitude (Tone)</i>	Observe both the speaker's and the poet's attitude (tone). Examination of diction, images, and details suggests the speaker's attitude toward the subject and contributes to understanding.
<i>Shift (Progression)</i>	Note shifts in speakers and in attitudes. Rarely does a poet begin and end the poetic experience in the same place. As is true of most of us, the poet's understanding of an experience is a gradual realization, and the poem is a reflection of that epiphany. Trace the changing feelings of the speaker from the beginning to the end, paying particular attention to the conclusion. Watch for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key words (but, yet, however, although)</li> <li>• Punctuation (dashes, periods, colons, ellipsis)</li> <li>• Stanza divisions</li> <li>• Changes in line or stanza length or both</li> <li>• Irony (sometimes irony hides shifts)</li> <li>• Effect of structure on meaning</li> <li>• Changes in sound that may indicate changes in meaning</li> <li>• Changes in diction (slang to formal language)</li> </ul>
<i>Title</i>	Examine the title again, this time on an interpretive level. Follow these steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarize the "plot" or events of a poem</li> <li>• List the subject or subjects of the poem (moving from literal to abstract - such as death, war, discovery, etc.)</li> <li>• Determine what the poet is saying about each subject</li> </ul>
<i>Theme</i>	Determine what the poet is saying - recognize the human experience, motivation, or condition suggested by the poem.