

NAME: _____

HONORS ENGLISH 12

DATE: _____

PERIOD: _____

ANNOTATING POETRY

Annotating is the act of marking up a text to bring attention to words, phrases, and structure that may have some importance to the overall mood or theme of a poem.

STEPS TO ANNOTATE A POEM

1. Initial reading of the poem. Write any questions that pop into your head while doing the initial reading.
2. Identify any words that you do not understand and look them up. Write the definitions on the poem.
3. Discover and mark rhyme scheme using a new letter for each end rhyme within the poem.
4. Count the amount of syllables in each line and mark the number at the end of the line.
5. Identify figurative language used within the poem. Think about the literal meaning of each figurative device.
6. Identify sound devices such as alliteration, assonance, and consonance. How does it impact the text?
7. Identify text that is repeated. Is there any reason the author would repeat the text?
8. Look closely at punctuation. Does it reveal anything about the speaker of the poem? (Example: Does it make them seem rambling, confident, nervous?)
9. Circle any words that are impactful or interesting. Determine connotative meaning. Are there any patterns? What does it reveal about the speaker's attitude towards the topic?
10. Determine the theme of the poem – draw arrows to all lines that lead you to that theme.
11. Reread the poem. If you are still having a hard time understanding the poem, repeat the annotation process!

QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ANSWER AFTER ANNOTATING A POEM:

1. What is the theme of the poem?
2. What kind of strategies does the author use to point out the theme?
3. What is the mood of the poem?
4. What kind of strategies does the author use to make the mood clear?
5. How does the figurative language impact the poem as a whole?
6. How does the punctuation/number of syllables/ rhyme scheme impact the poem as a whole?

NOW IT'S TIME TO WRITE THE ANALYSIS

Once the annotations are complete, it's time to write the analysis. Remember: an analysis consists of facts and commentaries. It is not a summary, a listing of facts, or random, unsubstantiated conjecture. Use the following outline to help:

- I. Topic sentence stating the title of the poem, the author, and the poem's theme.
- A. Evidence #1: Identify an important line, poetic device, rhyme scheme, etc.
 1. Analysis/Interpretation #1: Explain how the evidence supports the designated theme.
 2. Analysis/Interpretation #2: Explain how the evidence supports the designated theme.
- B. Evidence #2: Identify an important line, poetic devices, rhyme scheme.
 1. Analysis/Interpretation #1: Explain how the evidence supports the designated theme.
 2. Analysis/Interpretation #2: Explain how the evidence supports the designated theme.
- C. Concluding Sentence

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

BY WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.