How to Interpret Poetry

Title:

* Sometimes a song/poem’s title gives information about meaning. Clues about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Plot:

* What is happening or has happened?
* Also called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Determined by examining \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_by\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Setting:

* Where and when is the song/poem taking place?
* What is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of this time?
* Setting may influence the poem’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Character:

* Who is “speaking” the poem? Is the speaker involved in the action or watching it from outside?
* Sometimes the speaker is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Sometimes the speaker is observing the situation
* Sometimes the speaker is involved in the song/poem
* Song/poem can be in

-first person\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-second person\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-third person\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tone:

- What is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the speaker?

- The tone can be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_etc.

Style:

* What \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_or techniques are used in the song/poem?
* How do these devices enhance the song/poem?
* How do they help the reader understand the theme?

Theme:

* What is the song/poem’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? How do you know?
* Think carefully about the language, the tone and what the song/poem is saying.