

ENGLISH 2 POETRY RESPONSE

Evaluating a poem begins with personal taste. Whether you like a poem or loathe it, your reaction to it may be passionate. That should be the starting point for your response. The question is not merely whether a work pleases, but how well it performs the literary tasks it sets out to perform.

Suggestions for Evaluating a Poem if applicable.

DO NOT JUST ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS!! This is not a quiz. It is an essay.

These questions are just to aid you.

Try to determine what the poem seems designed to make you think and feel.

What effect is the poet trying to accomplish. If the poem is written in one of the literary movements that we studied, weigh it against the specifications of that movement.

What is your subjective response to the poem as a whole? Why?

Highlight moments that give you a strong reaction. Why do you think these passages elicit that response? Then, move on to the specific elements in the poem. How well do its language, imagery, symbols and figures of speech, rhyme and rhythm work in communicating its meaning? Are the metaphors or similes effective? Does the imagery work?

The goal is to nourish your personal response with informed, careful and critical examination of the poem.

Your thesis statement is what the poem means to you with three main points. It will be one sentence in the introduction, underlined and will be proven by three supporting paragraphs whose topic sentences reinforce the thesis and end with a concluding paragraph, thus, five paragraphs. The paper will be Times New Roman 12 font, double-spaced with one-inch margins. The student's name, Poetry Response and my name will be in the upper left corner of page one, single-spaced at the