

Writer's name: _____ Responder's name: _____

Poetry Response Sheet

Student Instructions: Poetry isn't easy to respond to, so use this response sheet as a guide more than a worksheet. Find 3-5 questions from this list that somehow pertain to the poem you are responding to. Circle those questions...then provide your response to all of them in one of two places: a] on the poem itself (in the margins or on Post-its®) or b] on a sheet of lined paper that you staple alongside this response sheet to the draft of the poem. Somewhere, you must respond in writing to 3-5 questions that you circle from the list below:

1. A poem should attempt to describe something or some occurrence in a way that it has never been described before. Unique description: that's what a poem is. Comment/Suggest on this poet's use of unique descriptions inside the poem.
2. Some poets use *rhyme* as one of the poetic writing tools (often called *poetic devices*) that help make the description unique. If this poet used *rhyme* as one of the poem's devices, comment/suggest on the poet's use of *rhyme*.
3. Some poets use *imagery* as one of the poetic writing tools (often called *poetic devices*) that help make the description unique. *Imagery* in poetry means adding words and phrases that affect all five of the senses when describing. If this poet used *imagery* as one of the poem's devices, comment/suggest on the poet's use of *imagery*.
4. Some poets use *simile* or *metaphor* as one of the poetic writing tools (often called *poetic devices*) that help make the description unique. *Simile* and *metaphor* in poetry means comparing things in very unique ways. If this poet used *simile* or *metaphor* as one of the poem's devices, comment/suggest on the poet's use of *simile* or *metaphor*.
5. Some poets use *personification* as one of the poetic writing tools (often called *poetic devices*) that help make the description unique. *Personification* in poetry means to treat non-living things as if they were alive...in an attempt to describe uniquely. If this poet used *personification* as one of the poem's devices, comment/suggest on the poet's use of *personification*.
6. Some poets use *rhythm* or *onomatopoeia* as one of the poetic writing tools (often called *poetic devices*) that help make the description unique. *Rhythm* in poetry means adding words and phrases that make the words sound more interesting...perhaps when read aloud you can hear a beat. *Onomatopoeia* means using many words that impersonate sound effects to give the poem a more interesting sound. If this poet used *rhythm* or *onomatopoeia* as one of the poem's devices, comment/suggest on the poet's use of *rhythm* or *onomatopoeia*.
7. Comment/suggest on the form of the poem. Does it look enough like a poem? Does the shape make the poem more interesting or meaningful somehow?
8. Comment/suggest on the word choice in the poem. Does the poem go out if its way to use interesting verbs and precise adjectives and nouns?
9. Comment/suggest on the meaning of the poem. Does it leave its reader with a better understanding the topic of the poem? Or with a more interesting perspective? What was this poem trying to say about its subject matter?
10. Does the poem both begin and end well? Comment/suggest on the poem's introduction and conclusion.
11. Suggest four alternative titles for this poet's piece of writing.
12. Other topic I can comment on when responding to this poem (write it below, then circle number 12):