

“SPEC/SLIMS - A Template for Analyzing a Poem

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| <p>Subject-matter</p> | <p>What event, situation, or experience does the poem describe or record?</p> |
| <p>Purpose (Theme)</p> | <p>Also means theme or message of the poet. What is the poet’s purpose in writing this – what message does he/she want to communicate?</p> |
| <p>Emotion (Mood)</p> | <p>What is the predominant emotion/feeling/mood of the poem? Does the mood change during the poem? What emotions or feelings does the poet seek to evoke in the reader?</p> |
| <p>Craftsmanship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure • Language • Imagery | <p>Or technique: How does the poet achieve his/her effect? What specific techniques has he or she used in the making of this poem, and what is their effect?</p> <p>: How is the poem structured? Does it have a conventional structure such as sonnet, or an ode? Does it have stanzas with a regular number of lines, or any other interesting features of structural design?</p> <p>: Is the language appropriate to subject and/or theme? What effect does the language have on the poem’s achievement?</p> <p>: Are there any striking examples of similes, metaphors, personifications or symbols in the poem? What is their effect?</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement • Sounds | <p>Or rhythm: Does the poem have a regular (slow or fast) rhythm? What is the effect of any rhythmic qualities?</p> <p>Does the poem have any significant sound features? Is it musical? Does the poet use onomatopoeia, alliteration, or assonance? Does the poem rhyme? What are the effects of these features of sound on the achievement of the poem?</p> |
| <p>Summary</p> | <p>What is the impact of the whole poem for you? How successful is it as a work of art? Does it successfully achieve the poet's purpose?</p> |