

Name

Date

Responding to a Poem

Your response to poetry is a result of all your experiences, thoughts, and beliefs. What a poem means to you comes as much from who you are as from the words on the page. Use the questions below as a starting point to delve deeper into a poem.

1. What feelings does this poem awaken in you?
2. What memories or experiences does the poem call to mind?
3. Which images are most striking? Which of your senses does the poem stir?
4. What parts of the poem puzzle you? What questions do you have?
5. What clues to meaning does the title of the poem offer?
6. Who or what is the speaker of the poem? How can you tell? Why do you suppose the poet chose this particular voice?
7. What do you think the poet is trying to say about life or people? Do you agree or disagree with this viewpoint? Explain.
8. Why do you suppose the writer chose poetry rather than prose?
9. If you had to select a piece of music or a piece of art to accompany a reading of this poem, what would you choose? Why?
10. What did you like most about the poem? What did you like least?