

## Poem Autopsy

### Stage one – WHAT IS THIS POEM ABOUT?

- Who is the narrator?
- What are they describing?
- What are some key lines which stand out or appeal to you? What do you think they mean?
- What's the THEME?

### Stage Two – WHAT STYLE DOES THE POEM USE AND WHY IS IT

**IMPORTANT?** Just being able to find devices or form in itself is not important. Being able to know why and how they work is the goal.

#### **Form and Structure:**

- Is the poem organized into any particular form or pattern? (quatrains, free verse, visually on the page is it different?, etc.)
- Is it a particular type of poem? (Sonnet, narrative, ballad, dramatic monologue)
- How does it begin, develop and end? \*\*\*\*\*
- Do any sections of the poem contrast with each other? How?



#### **Poetic Voice**

- What is the tone of the poem? Does this tone change as the poem develops?
- If the poem is in first person, what is the persona of the narrator? What type of character is he/she?

### Lexis (Word Use)

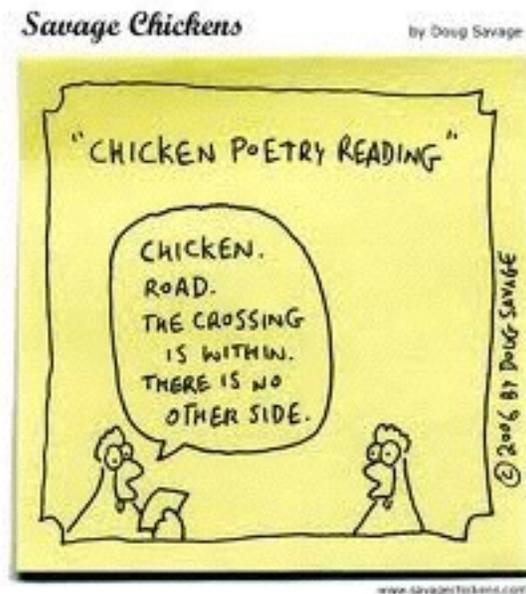
- Simple or complex?
- Formal or informal?
- What mood is created by the word use? How?
- Are there any patterns or categories of words which seem to appear more than once?
- What words and phrases are the most powerful? Why?
- Are there contrasting words within the piece?

### Imagery

- Are there any similes, metaphors, or personification used? Why?
- Are there any similarities or connections between the images used?

### Grammar

- Which of the sentence types are used >Interrogative, declarative, imperative, or exclamatory?
- What can be said about the length of each sentence? Long? Short? Why are some longer than others? REMEMBER A SENTENCE AND A LINE OF POETRY ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.
- Is there any unusual word order?



- Is the grammar standard or non-standard?
- Does it use past, present or future tense or a mixture? Why?

### Phonology – REMEMBER THAT ‘PHONO’ MEANS SOUND.

- Does the poem have a regular rhythm such as iambic pentameter? Why or why not?

- b. Are there changes in rhythm in the poem? Why?
- c. What sound devices, if any, are used? (alliteration, assonance, consonance, cacophony, onomatopoeia)

**Stage three** – what do you think of the poem, now that you ‘get’ it? Was it an effective poem? If so, why? If not, why not?

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