

Name: _____

Date: _____ Pd. _____

Mark up the poem with your comments, questions, reactions, and notes as you read it. **Interact with the text!**

Desert Places

Robert Frost

Snow falling and night falling fast, oh, fast
In a field I looked into going past,
And the ground almost covered smooth in snow,
But a few weeds and stubble showing last.

The woods around it have it—it is theirs.
All animals are smothered in their lairs.
I am too absent-spirited to count;
The loneliness includes me unawares.

And lonely as it is, that loneliness
Will be more lonely ere it will be less -
A blanker whiteness of benighted snow
With no expression, nothing to express.

They cannot scare me with their empty spaces
Between stars—on stars where no human race is.
I have it in me so much nearer home
To scare myself with my own desert places.

Using the **SSTVmidst** method, explicate and analyze the following poem. Use the questions below to guide your analysis—to help you look closely for different vehicles that communicate meaning, tone, and mood. Identify them **AND** their effects (the Big So What). ALWAYS connect the vehicle/literary device to the poem's MEANING!

Speaker Who is the voice within this poem? What is he talking about? What is he focused on?
What can you infer about him from what he says and how he says it?

Story What's literally happening stanza by stanza? Where is the speaker? What time of day is it?

Tone How does the speaker feel about what he is talking about? Use specific descriptors.

Vehicles How do you know he feels that way? Prove it!

Metaphor What figurative comparisons does he make throughout the poem? What effects do they have on tone and mood?

Imagery What images of this experience does he give us to help us to see, hear, touch, taste, smell what he does? What effects do they have on tone and mood? Why those images and not others?

Diction What specific words have connotations that clearly communicate his attitude?

Structure How are the stanzas divided? What things set them apart from each other? What lines are enjambed? What effects do they have?

Title What does the title have to do with the rest of the poem? What does it communicate to us about the poem's meaning and the speaker's feelings?

Finally, circle every **archetype** in this poem, identify what each represents, and then explain its significance to the meaning of the poem.