

Title of Poem: _____ Poet: _____

Person / Place Poem Review

Evaluator: _____

Instructions: Read the poem carefully at least twice to get the overall meaning of it/feel for it before answering the following questions. Please be thorough and specific with your comments. Remember that the main purpose of workshopping each other's poems is to offer the writer insights on what his or her poem actually communicates to its readers. As a result, workshopping is a great tool to aid the writer in his or her revision work.

Speaker, Story, Tone: Briefly identify the speaker and the story in this poem.

1. What or who is the subject of this poem?
2. What specific event/story does this poem revolve around? What is literally happening?
** Is there a specific **context**, or does this poem seem to talk mostly in generalities about how the speaker feels about the person or place?** (Are you having any difficulty pinning down a specific story?) Comment!
3. Identify any place in the poem where it seems to lose focus or become too abstract/general. List line numbers and comment beside each.
4. What overall impression does this poem give you about this person or place? Any difficulty pinpointing a specific impression? If so, explain to help the writer understand how the poem affects the readers.
5. What seems to be the speaker's **tone**—attitude toward the subject of the poem? How do you know? Support your conclusion with specific examples from the text.

Vehicles

- a. What specific words (**diction**) particularly reveal tone? Briefly explain any connotations and denotations associated with them.

- b. What concrete **imagery** does this poem employ? Do they consistently present the tone and affect the mood of the poem? How or why not? Which was your favorite? Why?
- c. What **figurative language** does this poem employ? What do the comparisons communicate in terms of tone and mood? What level of recognition did you discover in each? Explain. Which was your favorite? Why?
- d. Discuss line breaks and stanza divisions (**structure**). What do they communicate about the poem's structure and its connection to meaning and tone?
- e. What is the **title**? How does it contribute to/capture/enhance the meaning of the poem? Does it add irony? suspense? summary? commentary? theme? Explain.

Evaluation Comments

6. In the spirit of compression and efficiency of language, are there any words, phrases, or lines that you would consider superfluous (unnecessary/redundant)? Look especially for abstractions and explanations that *tell* rather than *show*.
7. What other comments would you offer? Did anything within the poem create potential problems for you?
8. Finally, what is your favorite line/passage in the poem? Why? (Please be specific!)