

Name _____ **Structure's Contribution**

Analyzing the Structure of Poetry

Many people consider poetry to be difficult to understand, because a poet seldom comes right out and says what is on his or her mind in the same way as someone writing prose. However, a poet seeks no less to be understood. Poetry is the language of experience, and often what we think, feel, and do is somewhat abstract. Most poets are not trying to hide their meaning, they are merely "playing" with the sound of language in order to offer an emotional insight. Different attributes of sound like rhyme, meter, alliteration and assonance can all contribute to the "meaning" of a poem.

DIRECTIONS: Read the assigned poem. Fill out the organizer below to analyze the structure. Then write a paragraph about how the presence of absence of any of these structural elements contribute to the overall "meaning" of the poem.

of stanzas: _____ # of lines per stanza: _____

Does # of lines per stanza vary? If so, how? _____

Form of poem (circle one): ode elegy sonnet
ballad epic haiku limerick free verse

other (explain): _____

Does the poem rhyme? _____

Is the rhyme internal, external or both? _____

What is the rhyme scheme? _____

Does the poem use a set meter? What is it? _____

Does the poem use any of the following?



- | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| alliteration | onomatopoeia | personification |
| assonance | repetition | metaphor |
| consonance | parallel structure | simile |
| hyperbole | Other (explain): | |