Analyzing Poetry

1. If there is a title, does it tell you what the poem is about?

2. Read the poem through quietly to yourself. What is happening?

3. What is your first impression of the poem?

4. Now read the poem a second time. Notice how it is punctuated. Do any images stand out to you? Is there a rhyming pattern? What is it? Is there a noticeable rhythm to the words?

5. Is there an obvious meaning to the poem?

6. Is there an implied meaning?
7. What do you think the poet is trying to communicate?

8. Identify the structures in the poem (repetition, different voices or themes in stanzas, etc.)

9. Identify the poetic devices in use (simile, metaphor, alliteration, personification, onomatopoeia, assonance, etc.).

10. Note any special use of vocabulary or language.

11. What is your interpretation of the poem? Describe what it means to you in a few sentences, as if you were telling a friend about it.