



NOTICING SKILLS CHECKLIST FOR POETRY

VOICE

- How would I read this poem aloud? Is there anything about the poem which makes it difficult for me to read it aloud?
- Does the voice in this poem sound as if it's coming from a particular time or place?
- Who seems to be speaking in this poem? Who is the poem speaking to?
- Does the poem's tone of voice suggest a particular attitude towards the reader?
- Does the tone of voice suggest a particular attitude towards the subject matter of the poem?
- Is there more than one kind of voice in the poem? If so, what's the relationship between the two?

FORM

- Is there a formal structure to this poem? Does it have a regular metrical pattern? Is there a rhyme scheme?
- Are there other ways in which this poem is patterned?
- What elements of repetition are there?
- Do any of these things help me in understanding what kind of poem this is?

IMAGERY

- Which image first caught my attention?
- Which image is most central to what the poem has to say? Did any of the images surprise me?
- Do some of the images suggest strong positive or negative connotations?
- Do certain images connect with each other, to create a particular mood or attitude or impression?
- Are there contrasting images in the poem? How does these contribute to meaning?

NARRATIVE VIEWPOINT

- Is the poem divided into sections? Do these correspond to shifts in the narrative or argument?
- Which pronouns are used? Is this broadly a first, second, third person text? A mixture?
- From what viewpoint is the story told? Where would the camera be if the poem were filmed?
- What questions does the poet ask? What questions are left for the reader to ask?