

## Poetry Analysis

Here is what you do, step by step:

1. Read the poem.
2. Underline all of the words that you don't understand or think would have major significance. Look them up in the dictionary and write down the meaning.
3. If there is a word or phrase that seems to have a particular connotation, write down the connotation or make a note to find out the connotation.
4. Look up the author's background. Find out when he/she wrote the poem. Are there references to the time period in the poem? If so, look up the time period. In this poem, the references to a typewriter, soldiers in flaming jungles, and bodies being bulldozed into pits are clear indications of the time period.
5. Reread the poem. Write down what you think it means, now that you understand more about the author and time period.
6. Go through the poem, looking for poetic devices. Underline them and categorize them as I've done in the sample, below.
7. Now reread the poem again. Write down what you think it means, now that you understand more about the poetic devices.
8. Reread your notes on the author's bio and time period; reread your notes on the poetic devices; reread the poem.

Now write your analysis.