**Deconstructing a Poem**

**Write directly on the poem handout. Use colours, use stars, MARK IT UP.**

To help analyze and appreciate a poem, deconstruct the piece of writing using these steps:

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| **Steps****Read the poem** 1. Read the poem in your head.
2. Read the poem out loud, or under your breath
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| 1. **Sense**: What is the poem trying to say? Try putting the poem into literal language- how would you explain it to a child? **You may either do this line by line or sometimes stanza by stanza. Write on the paper itself.**
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| 1. **Structure**: What kind of poem is it? A limerick? Lyrical? Ballad? Sonnet?

**How do you know?** |
| 1. **Mood**: What feeling do you get from the poem? What is the poet trying to make you feel? Creepy, sad, angry, curious? Does the imagery help create a mood?

**How do you know?** |
| 1. **Tone**: What is the tone of the poem? It is the author’s attitude towards his/her subject or readers. It is similar to tone of voice and should not be confused with mood or atmosphere.

**How do you know?** |
| 1. **Topic**: What is the topic? Sometimes the title is not always the answer if it is deceptive, sarcastic, satirical.
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| 1. **Poetic Devices**: see terminology booklet and find as many poetic devices as you can.
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| 1. **In one or two sentences, summarize the meaning of the poem. What is the author’s intent? Write your answer clearly and then circle it or underline it.**
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