**Analyzing the Narrative Essay**

**“A Poet’s Boyhood at the Burning Crossroads”**

[**New York Times "A Poet's Boyhood..."**](https://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/01/19/a-poets-boyhood-at-the-burning-crossroads/?_r=0)

Read the following personal narrative essay. With a mix of highlighters, pens and pencils analyze for the following:

**Step one- *read for purpose, imagery, sentence fluency and voice.***

**Sentence fluency:**

1. Circle the short, declarative sentences
2. Note when both are used. Discuss stylistic uses

**Imagery and Figurative Language**

1. Note how much the author “shows” as opposed to “tells”. He uses imagery to create the visuals.
2. Mark the figurative devices: allusion, simile, metaphor, alliteration, assonance (paragraph 8), and onomatopoeia.

**Purpose**

1. What is the purpose of this essay?
2. Is it stated clearly or is it meant to be inferred?
3. Where is it stated or obvious? The beginning or the end of the essay? Is this an effective way to show the reader the purpose?

**Voice**

1. Where do you “hear” his voice?
2. Is it funny? Serious? Ironic? Happy? Sarcastic? Or ?

**Step two- read for punctuation**

**Mechanics**

Commas (take note of the use of commas when interrupting a thought.