**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
3. Begin marking it up with questions (vocab, meaning, etc) and with what you already know.
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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?

**Why do you think that?** |
| 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.

**Why do you think that?** |
| 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. Write all over your poem.
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| 1. **Historical Background-** when was it written and where? Is there any significance to the historical background? Look it up!
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| 1. **Author themselves-** what is relevant about their life that can shed light on the meaning of the poem. Do a quick google search to get the facts.
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| 1. **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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