Poetry Analysis Rubric

Title of Poem: ___________________________________________________________

Type / Form of Poem: ____________________________________________________

Name of Poet: ___________________________________________________________

1. Analyze the effectiveness of the poem’s Music / Identify any Sound Devices?

2. Analyze and interpret the poem’s Emotional Impact / Identify and Discuss the overall Tone or Mood of the poem / Is there a shift in the tone or mood anywhere in the poem?

3. Analyze the effectiveness of the poem’s Imagery / Identify any precise or unique words of phrases that give rise to effective imagery. / Identify and discuss any Figurative Language that fuels the experience of the poem.
4. Analyze and discuss the Journey the poem takes you on, literally and figuratively / List any Themes that arise from the poem. What thoughts linger in your mind as the poem concludes? How has the poem challenged, informed, or inspired you?

5. Analyze and discuss the Form of the Poem / How do the stanzas, line breaks, epigraphs, title, and the chosen “type” or structure of the poem add to the overall meaning of the poem?

6. Analyze and discuss the poem in terms of its Clarity of purpose and meaning / Is the poem more transparent, translucent, or opaque? How does the poet achieve that effect?
7. **Analyze and Discuss the poem in terms of its Complexity** / Does the poem have richly embedded layers of meaning, or *implicative lacunae*? / How does the poet allow you to enter into the poem with your imagination and storehouse of archetypal experiences? / Is there white space in the poem where you can freely imagine and interpret according to your own interpretation of the Figurative Language? Any puns? Juxtapositions? Double meanings? Meaningful symbolism or metaphorical language?

8. **Analyze and Discuss the ways the poem creates a sense of Astonishment** / The liminal line breaks / the use of dramatic pause of caesura / a surprising turn / humorous or ironic effect / any “meta” or metaphysical or epiphanal moments of sudden understanding?
9. **Analyze and discuss how you personally relate to the poem.** / How do you identify with the poem’s topic, themes, or ideas? / What will remain with you long after you have put away the poem? / Give a judgment of the overall effectiveness of the poem. / Would you read the poem again, or purchase a book of poems by this poet?

10. **What have you read, studied, or heard that gave you a window into better understanding this poem?** Does this poem bring to mind any other poets or authors? How has your literary life allowed you to experience a unique appreciation of the quality and depths of this poem?