COPY THE POEM
It may be helpful to photocopy the poem so you can use your own copy as a worksheet to
highlight, make notes, define words, and even color code repeated words, phrases, ideas,
or patterns. If the poem is a reasonable length to copy by hand, this too, may help you
examine the poem with fresh insight. It may also be helpful to paraphrase each line.
Poetry, like other types of fiction, may be analyzed for character, plot, setting, theme, and
point of view. Remember to check class textbook for other suggestions on poetry.

GETTING STARTED
The poem “_________________” is about (war, love, etc.) ___________________.
Is the poem lyric (rhymes) or narrative (tells a story)? ___________________.
The mood or tone of the poem might be described as (sad, joyful, etc.) ________________.
List words or images from the poem that create this tone.
________________________________________

The speaker or narrator (not necessarily the poet) of the poem is identified as ________.
The point of view is ________________________________.
First Person: I, we
Second Person: you
Third Person: he, she, they
Omniscient: (all knowing)

The setting (location) of the poem is suggested by ______________, __________, __________.
The time (day/evening, season) or historical setting is suggested by ________________.

Search the poem, for symbols, images, figures of speech, irony, and poetic devices:
Simile—comparison using “like” or “as” (The runner was as fast as a cheetah).
Metaphor—a direct comparison (The coffee spill made dark tributaries forming a muddy river across the floor).
Personification—giving human qualities to something not human (The arms of the tree seemed to welcome me).
Alliteration—repetition of consonant sounds (Merry month of May).
Onomatopoeia—words that suggest actual sound (crash, boom, pitter-patter, clang).
Synecdoche—a part stands for a whole (“all hands on deck” “hands” stands for people)
Metonymy—one thing refers to something else closely related to it (“the high brass” might mean officers or leaders).

Look for lines, words, or phrases that are repeated.
Is the repetition exact or does it change? How does this affect the meaning or tone?

What is the theme of the poem? In one sentence express what the meaning, application,
moral, or point of view of the poem is in your own words.

List lines from the poem that would support what you suggest is the theme.

Look back at the title of the poem. How does the title contribute to the overall meaning?