

**ANALYZING** means figuring out why and how something works. In poetry, it means finding

**UNDERSTANDING POETRY**

- Poetry can be **UNDERSTOOD** to mean different things by different people. The poet is saying what is on their mind and the reader is listening.
  - Like a normal conversation, readers ask questions, give opinions, and express feelings
- Think about the four important parts of poetry:

<b>WHAT IT MEANS</b>	<b>HOW IT SOUNDS</b>	<b>IMAGES DESCRIBED</b>	<b>HOW IT IS SHAPED</b>
What is the poem about and what ideas are represented?	Are there words that imitate sounds? What is the beat/rhythm and rhyme scheme?	Does the poem paint pictures in your mind? How are poetic devices (metaphors, similes, etc) used?	Is the poem divided into stanzas? Do certain words stick out? How does this add to the meaning?

**USE CONTEXT CLUES**

- Does the title give you a hint about what the poem is about?
- Do certain words stick out when scanning the poem?
- Is the poem written in a shape that might suggest its meaning?

**UNDERSTANDING A POEM**

These questions help readers understand and respond to poetry:

1. How did you feel as you read the poem?
2. What do you think of the poet's ideas?
3. What are your favourite images in the poem?
4. What do you think of the sound of the poem – the rhythm, rhyme, and the sound of the words?
5. How does the poem connect to your own life?
6. What would you say to the poet about the poem if you had the chance?
7. What do you think the poem is saying?

