

Name:

HOW TO READ A POEM

R	Read It	Read it. Read it again. Read it silently. Read it aloud. Read it with curiosity. Read it.
E	Enliven It	What makes this poem come alive? Which of your senses are activated as you read it? What do you see, hear, taste, smell, or feel?
A	Annotate It	How can you annotate the poem to show off its features? Underlining, circles, stars, and highlights make the perfect poetry accessories. Does the tone shift or turn? Mark it. Does word choice or connotation deepen the meaning? Explain it. Does rhyme scheme play a role? Label it. Does figurative language add depth? Annotate it. Does context add a layer of understanding? Write it.
D	Decipher It	How does the title contribute to the whole? Who is the speaker? What is the topic? What is the speaker's attitude toward the topic? How does it connect to the world? How does it connect to another text? How does it connect to you? If the poem is a question, what is the answer? If the poem is an answer, what is the question? How is the theme revealed to you?

DIRECTIONS:

1. Practice with the example poem, "Hope is the thing with feathers" by Emily Dickinson
2. Check your work using the example provided. Please keep in mind that this is just one interpretation. The beauty of poetry is that it can be interpreted in different ways depending on what context, life experiences, and personality readers bring to the poem.
3. Your further directions go here.



Name:

R.E.A.D. THIS POEM

Practice:

Hope is the thing with feathers by Emily Dickinson

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all,

And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.

I've heard it in the chillest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.

Read It

Enliven It

Sensory Imagery Key



Annotate it

Annotation Key

Rhyme Scheme	Literary Devices	Questions I have	Thoughts I have
()	<u>Underline</u> + Label	?	I think...

Decipher It

How does the title contribute to the whole?

Name: _____

R.E.A.D. THIS POEM

Practice:

Hope is the thing with feathers by Emily Dickinson

Metaphor (entire poem is an extended metaphor)

Hope is the thing with feathers (A)
That perches in the soul, (B)
And sings the tune without the words, (C)
And never stops at all, (B)

Personification

And sweetest in the gale is heard; (C)
And sore must be the storm (D)
That could abash the little bird (C)
That kept so many warm. (D)

Alliteration

I've heard it in the chillest land, (E)
And on the strangest sea; (F)
Yet, never, in extremity, (F)
It asked a crumb of me. (F)

I think it's nice to visualize hope as a constant presence in our soul... "Never stops at all"

? I wonder what other type of animal would make a good symbol for hope?

I think this poem is motivational and inspiring because no matter what storms in life we might face, hope is always there.

Read It

Enliven It

Sensory Imagery Key



Annotate it

Annotation Key

Rhyme Scheme	Literary Devices	Questions I have	Thoughts I have
(_)	<u>Underline</u> + Label	?	I think...

Decipher It

What are the recurring themes in the poem?
How can you connect one of these themes to yourself?

The recurring theme in this poem is one of consistency. Though hope is delicate as a bird, it's always there. In storms, in winter, in strange times, hope is there in our soul. There have been several times in my life where everything seemed to be going wrong. However, by focusing on gratitude, I was able to feel a small flutter of hope and know that things would look up soon.

Name:

R.E.A.D. THIS POEM

Practice:

Title by Author

Poem goes here.

Read It

Enliven It

Sensory Imagery Key



Annotate it

Annotation Key

Rhyme Scheme	Literary Devices	Questions I have	Thoughts I have
()	<u>Underline</u> + Label	?	I think...

Decipher It

Your question goes here.

Example questions for any poem:

- How does the title contribute to the whole?
- How is the poem structured? How does the structure contribute to the overall experience of the poem for you?
- What emotions does the poem evoke in you?
- How does the poet use language to convey emotion?
- What specific words or phrases have a strong impact on you and how do they impact the meaning?
- What images stand out to you in the poem?
- How do these images contribute to the overall meaning?