**Questions for analyzing poetry**

* **What parts of the poem interest or puzzle you?** What words seem especially striking or unusual?
* **How can you describe the poem’s *speaker* (sometimes called the *persona* or the *voice*)?** The speaker may be very different from theauthor.
* **What tone or emotion do you detect**—for instance, anger, affection, sarcasm? Does the tone change during the poem?
* **What is the structure of the poem?** Are there stanzas (groups of lines separated by space)? If so, how is the thought related to the stanzas?
* **What are the themes of the poem?** What is it about? Are the themes stated or implied?
* **What images do you find?** Look for evocations of sight, sound, taste, touch, or smell. Is there a surprising pattern of images—say, images of business in a poem about love? What does the poem suggest symbolically as well as literally? (Trust your responses. If you don’t sense a symbolic overtone, move on. Don’t hunt for symbols.)