

List of Poetry Essay Questions

Write an essay in which you describe the speaker's attitude _____.

In your essay, identify at least two of the implications implicit in the society reflected in the poem.

Write an essay in which you discuss how the poem's diction reveals his attitude toward _____.

Write an essay discussing the differences between the speaker's attitude toward _____ and _____.

Write an essay in which you explain how the organization of the poem* and the use of concrete details* reveal both its literal and its metaphorical meanings. In your discussion, show how both of these meanings relate to the title**.

*or the devices prominently featured in your poem.

**or theme if that is more appropriate for your poem.

Write an essay in which you analyze how the language of the poem reflects the changing perceptions and emotions of the speaker as he considers _____.

Write an essay in which you discuss how the diction, imagery, and movement of verse* in the poem reflect differences in tone and content.

**or the devices prominently featured in your poem..

Write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the poem's organization, diction, and figurative language prepare the reader for the speaker's concluding response.

In the soliloquy, King Henry laments his inability to sleep. In a well-organized essay, briefly summarize the King's thoughts and analyze how the diction, imagery, and syntax help to convey his state of mind. [Change this to fit your poem's content.]

Write an essay in which you describe the speaker's attitude toward _____. Using specific references from the text, show how the use of language reveals the speaker's attitude.

Then write an essay in which you discuss how such elements as language, imagery, structure, and point of view convey meaning in the poem.

Analyze how the speaker uses the varied imagery of the poem to reveal his attitude toward _____.

Write a well-organized essay in which you discuss how the poem's controlling metaphor expresses the complex attitude of the speaker.

Write a well-organized essay in which you explain how formal elements such as structure, syntax, diction, and imagery reveal the speaker's response to _____.

Read the following poem carefully, paying particular attention to the physical intensity of the language. Then write a well-organized essay in which you explain how the poet conveys not just a literal description of _____ but also a deeper understanding of the whole experience. You may wish to include analysis of such elements as diction, imagery, metaphor, rhyme, rhythm, and form.

Taking into consideration the title of the poem, analyze how the poetic devices convey the speaker's attitude toward the sinking of the ship.

Write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the poet uses language to describe the scene and to convey mood and meaning.

Write an essay discussing how the poet uses literary techniques to reveal the speaker's attitudes toward _____ and _____.

Write a well-organized essay in which you analyze the techniques the poet uses to convey his attitude toward the places he describes.

Write an essay analyzing how _____ uses literary techniques to develop the complex meanings that the speaker attributes to _____. You may wish to consider such elements as structure, imagery, and tone.

Then write a well-developed essay in which you analyze how the poet conveys the complex relationship of the _____ and _____ through the use of literary devices such as point of view and structure.

Read carefully the following poem, paying close attention to the relationship between form and meaning. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how the literary techniques used in this poem contribute to its meaning.