Poetry Analysis Worksheet
A step-by-step guide to reading and understanding poetry

1. **Title**
   - If there is a title – does it define the subject matter of the poem’s focus?

2. **First Reading**
   - Read the poem silently to gain a first impression.
   - What is the narrative in the poem (what is happening?)
   - Make some notes on your first impressions.

3. **Re-Reading**
   - Read the poem again – carefully, analytically and out loud.
   - Take note of punctuation; notice images that stand out; listen to the rhyming pattern and the rhythm of the words.

4. **Meaning**
   - Identify the obvious meaning and then look for implied meaning(s). What do you think the poet is trying to say?

5. **Consolidation – Putting it all together**
   - Read the poem again to consolidate your appreciation of its meaning.

6. **Theme(s)**
   - Identify the main theme of the poem
7. **Analysis**
   - Are there poetic techniques such as: similes; metaphors; alliteration; personification; onomatopoeia; assonance?

   - Other structures such as: repetition; tenses; different voices; different themes in stanzas.

   - Use of vocabulary and language? (Find the meaning of words you are not familiar with)

   - Listen to the tone of the poem. What is it? Does it change?

   - What is the poet’s message or intention in writing this poem?

8. **Interpretation**
   - What issues are raised about society/relationships or life?

   - Now use the above notes and information to write an analytical essay about the poem/s you have been analysing.