

AP English Literature and Composition
Speed Analysis

Use this answer sheet to identify the salient features of each poem.

Consider form (closed form, shaping form), image, factors that affect sound (sound tropes, different repetitions or rhetorical patterns), and tone. Identify theme or overall emotional effect.

If categories overlap, you may place elements wherever they make the most sense.

Poem: "I Go Back to May 1937" Sharon Olds

1. Identify/describe the form of the poem. Consider closed form and shaping form.

Free verse lyric
One stanza / verse #

also (ending) as poetria is it an ekphrasis about a photo?

Irregular line length; radical enjambment

2. Identify the main images of the poem. Identify whether they are images, metaphors/similes, or symbols. Provide meanings if applicable.

Poem gives the image of the parents at the gate

Similes darker than photo images (like bent plates of blood...)

paper doll image is shocking - makes the speaker

3. Identify devices that affect sound (sound tropes, repetitions, rhetorical patterns, line endings) violent,

Enjambment affects pace, esp in middle → end of poem. Also suggests disruption, something terribly wrong. Caesura.

Repetition, piling up of adjs, anaphora "you are going to..."

4. What is the tone of the poem. How can you tell?

The speaker is powerful. Her tone is consequence (like chips of and assonance) desperate flint) in places, angry, at the end triumphant.

5. Identify the theme of the poem.

The poem uses verb tense to convey a feeling/idea of fatedness. The main idea/situation is the speaker's ambivalence, complex relationship to her parents. Theme of unhappy family,

ars poetria