

English 12/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.

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Poem: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Identify/describe the form of the poem. Consider closed form and shaping form.
2. Identify the main images of the poem. Identify whether they are images, metaphors/similes, or symbols. Provide meanings if applicable.
3. Identify devices that affect sound (sound tropes, repetitions, rhetorical patterns, line endings)
4. What is the tone of the poem. How can you tell?
5. Identify the theme of the poem.

1. Poppies in October  
by Sylvia Plath

Even the sun-clouds this morning cannot manage such skirts.  
Nor the woman in the ambulance  
Whose red heart blooms through her coat so astoundingly –

A gift, a love gift  
Utterly unasked for  
By a sky

Palely and flamily  
Igniting its carbon monoxides, by eyes  
Dulled to a halt under bowlers.

Oh my God, what am I  
That these late mouths should cry open  
In a forest of frosts, in a dawn of cornflowers.

2. Nobody Comes  
by Thomas Hardy

Tree-leaves labour up and down,  
And through them the fainting light  
Succumbs to the crawl of night.  
Outside in the road the telegraph wire  
To the town from the darkening land  
Intones to travelers like a spectral lyre  
Swept by a spectral hand.

A car comes up, with lamps full-glare,  
That flash upon a tree:  
It has nothing to do with me,  
And whangs along in a world of its own,  
Leaving a blacker air;  
And mute by the gate I stand again alone,  
And nobody pulls up there.

3. To an Athlete Dying Young

by AE Housman

The time you won your town the race  
We chaired you through the market-place;  
Man and boy stood cheering by,  
And home we brought you shoulder-high.

Today, the road all runners come,  
Shoulder-high we bring you home,  
And set you at your threshold down,  
Townsmen of a stiller town.

Smart lad, to slip betimes away  
From fields where glory does not stay,  
And early though the laurel grows  
It withers quicker than the rose.

Eyes the shady night has shut  
Cannot see the record cut,  
And silence sounds no worse than cheers  
After earth has stopped the ears.

Now you will not swell the rout  
Of lads that wore their honours out,  
Runners whom renown outran  
And the name died before the man.

So set, before its echoes fade,  
The fleet foot on the sill of shade,  
And hold to the low lintel up  
The still-defended challenge-cup.

And round that early-laurelled head  
Will flock to gaze the strengthless dead,  
And find unwithered on its curls  
The garland briefer than a girl's.

4. Easter Wings  
by George Herbert

Lord, who createdst man in wealth and store,  
Though foolishly he lost the same,  
Decaying more and more,  
Till he became  
Most poore:  
With thee  
O let me rise  
As larks, harmoniously,  
And sing this day thy victories:  
Then shall the fall further the flight in me.

My tender age in sorrow did beginne  
And still with sicknesses and shame.  
Thou didst so punish sinne,  
That I became  
Most thinne.  
With thee  
Let me combine,  
And feel thy victorie:  
For, if I imp my wing on thine,  
Affliction shall advance the flight in me.