In the beginning are the words of the poem – the sole gateway to the world that the poet makes. Line by line they form themselves into phrases and sentences, the sentences unite to complete the utterance of the speaker, until that world lies at last revealed.

- Identify the speaker(s). EVIDENCE (Quotes)?
- Define the context in which the words are spoken (who, what, when, where, why). You should consider the time period – historical/social significance.
- What is the tone of the speaking voice(s) and EVIDENCE? Are there shifts? Why?
Ask what unifies the context **(artistic organization)**. At this level of reading the aim is to grasp the organizing conception which synthesizes the elements of the poem (its shape, the manner of handling it and its materials) **in the service of an artistic purpose**. **In short – the structure.**

“Form follows function” – think of the poem as architecture.

- Poetry form – Narrative/Lyric, Sonnet, Dramatic Monologue, Apostrophe, etc.
- Stanza structure, Rhyme Scheme, Meter, POV
- Development of ideas through structure (Outline)
Ask how the artistic purpose is served by the technique (the manner in which the context is unfolded), and second, style or the language which is used for doing so.

**Technique/Style (Literary Devices)**
- Selection (what is left in, what is left out)/Scale (to what extent)
- Diction/Sounds/Patterns/Rhythm/Simile/Metaphor/Personification/
  Hyperbole/Free Verse/Shape/Alliteration/Consonance/Assonance, etc.

Besides identification (with quotes), address the EFFECT of the poet’s choice.
Important lines from the poem. Memorize!
Transition/Beauty/Theme/Revelation

The surfacing of symbols/allusions/archetypes (quotes) . EXPLAIN.
What purpose do they serve?
What SENSES are employed in the poem through imagery? Provide direct quotes and EXPLAIN the purpose.

Cross-Reference to other poems (more than one):
This is not limited to choice of topic, but may include POV, structure, organization, style, scope and depth, etc. Poems from other poets in this part of the curriculum may/should be used also.
Look at previous exams – Notes on how you would use this poem to answer three of the questions. Bulleted outline of response is required (at least four aspects).

Question:

Question:

Question: