**General Questions for Interpreting a Poem**

***These questions should be answered thoroughly for each poem we study.***

1. What is the meaning?

• Literal?

• Thematic?

2. What is the style?

3. How does this poem fit in with the collection from which it came?

4. Is this poem evocative of the poets “normal” style/message or does the poet stray into new territory?

5. What emotions are conveyed/ evoked?

6. What are the poetic elements (or techniques) used by the poet?

• Figurative Language/Sound Devices?

• Structure? Rhythm/rhyme?

• Imagery

• Symbolism? Allusions?

• Diction/Syntax/Punctuation?

8. What events in the poet’s life could explain meaning?

9. Is there a universal message?

10. How does this poem affect or challenge your own thoughts/emotions/ideals/values?