**TPCASTT: Strategy for Analyzing Poetry**

Name: Date: Period:

**In Secret We Thirst** by Hermann Hesse

Graceful, spiritual,

with the gentleness of arabesques

our life is similar

to the existence of fairies

that spin in soft cadence

around nothingness

to which we sacrifice

the here and now

Dreams of beauty, youthful joy

like a breath in pure harmony

with the depth of your young surface

where sparkles the longing for the night

for blood and barbarity

In the emptiness, spinning, without aims or needs

dance free our lives

always ready for the game

yet, secretly, we thirst for reality

for the conceiving, for the birth

we are thirst for sorrows and death

**T(title):** Predict the significance of the title before reading the poem.

* Analyze the title first.

**P(paraphrase):** Re-write the poem  ***two lines at a time*** in your own words.

**C**(**connotation)** Connotation is defined as an idea or feeling that a word invokes in addition to its literal or primary meaning; it’s the meaning derived beyond the literal definition.)

* Identify poetic devices: alliteration, allusions, assonance, consonance, diction (important words & why), similes, metaphors, personification, imagery (sight, touch, smell, hear,) hyperbole (exaggeration), onomatopoeia, rhetorical questions, symbolism
* List all devices. If the poem doesn’t have one of the poetic devices, list it and then write “none”.
* i.e. alliteration: none

**A (attitude):** Identify and describe the *persona.* Observe the speaker’s attitude, the tone.*Note*: The author is not necessarily the speaker of the poem**.)**

**S(shift):** Look for change in time, tone, and speaker, as this will affect the meaning of the poem.

**T (title again):** Reconsider the title again. What other meanings might your analysis have now that you’ve analyzed the poem? Try to see how the title fits with the work as a whole.

**T(theme):** Determine what the poet is saying. This does not have to be a “moral” or a “cute saying”. Instead, you should think about how the human experience is presented in the poem. The theme should be a universal truth, not applicable only to the poem. What is the poet trying to say about life?

\*How does this poem relate to *Siddhartha*? Answer this question in a sentence or two.