**TPCASTT: Strategy for Analyzing Poetry**

Name: Date: Period:

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

* Analyze the title first.

**P(paraphrase):** Re-write the poem  ***stanza by stanza*** in your own words.

\*Note: Just do this part on the butcher paper; you don’t have to copy it here too since the poem is long.\*

**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 diction & why), similes, metaphors, personification, imagery (sight, touch, smell, hear,) hyperbole, onomatopoeia, rhetorical questions, symbolism
* List all devices on the butcher paper. If your particular 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?