A hand holding a tennis racket

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**THE BIG 5 POEM ANALYSIS**

**THE BIG 5** presents five lenses - ways of looking at poetry.

Since not all poems are the same in content and style, you will find some lenses more useful than others when analyzing different poems.

Since analyzing is a skill, the more you practice, the better you will become and the more you will see when you analyze a poem!

![A black and silver magnifying glass

Description automatically generated with low confidence]() **Lens #1: Audience & Purpose**

Who does the text target? What audience do you believe the poet wants to reach? What is your evidence? What does the speaker/narrator of the poem wish to achieve through the poem?

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**Lens #2: Content & Theme**

What is literally ‘happening’ in the poem? What is going on? What are the main ideas (themes) of the poem? How is the theme developed? (select events or ideas). Can you put the text into your own words (paraphrasing) to help you understand the poem better?

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**Lens #3: Tone & Mood**

**TONE** refers to the attitude the poet or speaker/narrator has towards the content of the poem. Maybe they are being sarcastic or angry, etc. You need to look at the words the poet uses to determine this.

Pick out a few words and based on those words, what do you think the poet’s attitude is?

What language by the narrator (or writer) is used to draw out an emotional effect (PATHOS) from you the reader? Does the tone and/or mood shift and change somewhere in the poem?

**MOOD** refers to how you feel after reading the poem. It may be the same or very different from the tone. For example, the poet may want you to laugh at something, but you may find it very offensive.

What is your mood after reading this text? How does the poem make you and/or the target audience feel?

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**Lens #4: Stylistic Devices**

What literary techniques (literary devices, figurative language) does the poet and speaker/narrator use to get a response from you the audience? Does the poem contain irony, similes, sarcasm, metaphors, puns, imagery, rhyming words etc.) Identify one or more devices you see and explain why they are effective!

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**Lens #5: Structure**

How is the text of the poem organized, literally (formatting/layout)?

What kinds of structural elements of a particular text type do you see?