

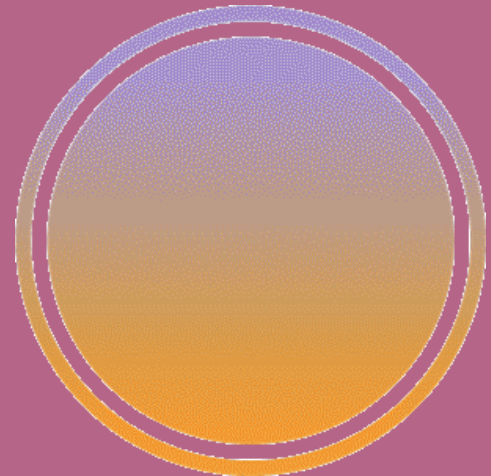
How to Annotate a Poem!

Miss McPherson's Way

I will be discussing the steps that I use when I annotate a poem, and at the very end I will show you an example of how you might go about annotating a poem using this step by step guide.

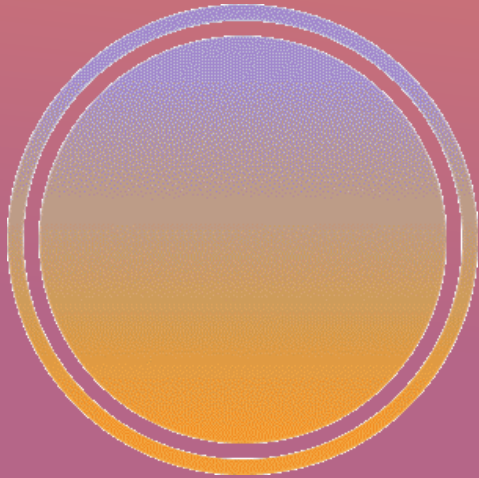
Suggested supplies:

- Pencil or erasable pen (much easier to make corrections or change information as you annotate the poem)
- Coloured pencils, markers, and/or highlighters (for labeling purposes and to help identify specific areas of annotation)
- Post-it notes/flags (more space to write information or identify specific areas of annotation)
- a printed copy of the poem you are annotating



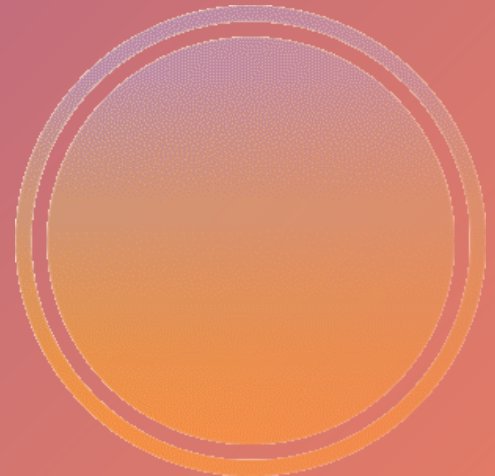
Step One:

- Read the entire poem. I strongly encourage that you read it once quietly and then a second time outloud.
- Reading the poem before you begin annotating it allows for you to gain personal understanding of what you believe the poem to be about before you start a deep dive of information.



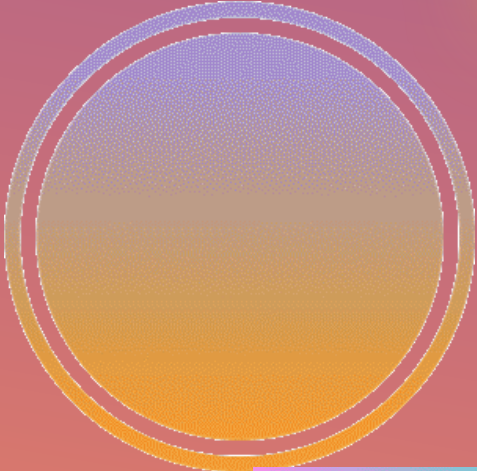
Step Two:

- Analyse and annotate the poem's organisation.
 - How many stanzas are there?
 - What is the rhyme scheme?
 - How many syllables are in each line?
- By doing this you can identify the form and style of the poem.

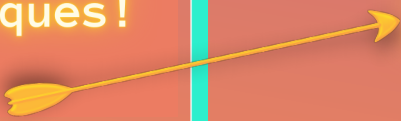


Step Three:

- Reread the poem and underline and define words or phrases you do not know.
 - Write the meaning of the words and phrases in the margins.
 - Check to make sure an unknown phrase is not figurative language.



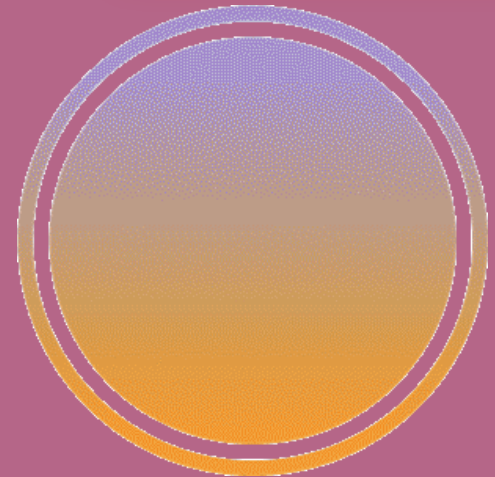
These are
your poetic
techniques!



Step Four:

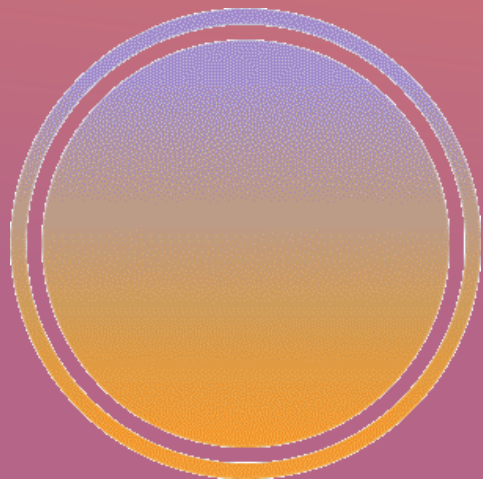
THIS STEP OF THE ANNOTATION WILL TAKE THE MOST TIME TO COMPLETE.

- Reread the poem and make detailed annotations.
- Each annotation type should appear in a different colour, using a symbol or a particular underlining technique to establish the difference between each.
- You might choose to highlight the use of repetition pink or underline metaphors with a wavy line.



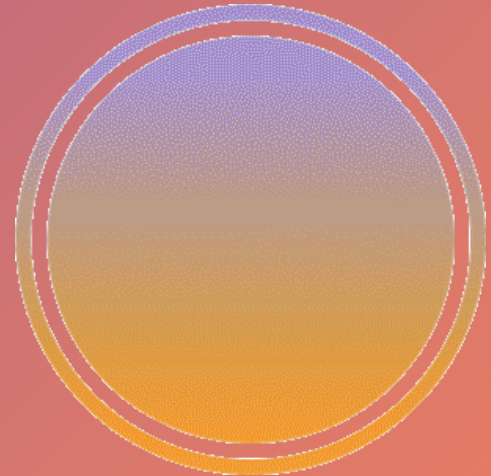
Step Five:

- Question the poem.
 - What is the author saying?
 - What is the author's tone?
 - What is the author's style?
 - How does this poem make you feel?



Step Six:

- Review your annotations so far.
- Reflect on the form, rhyme scheme, techniques, and the feeling that the poem gives you.
- How do all of the aspects above connect to one another to create the poem?



Step Seven:

- Identify and explore the poem's theme.
- The theme is the central message of the poem.
- What techniques and words represent that theme within the poem?

