

Unpacking a Poem

Some Considerations When You Annotate

- What do you notice about how the poem is written? What do you like? (Think pattern, form, diction, images, details, figurative language, sound effects, surprises, title, conclusion.)
- What's happening, literally, in the poem? Do any words or lines confuse you?
- How does the poem make you feel? Which words or lines make you feel that way?
- Which lines do you think are the most important?
- Does anything in the poem remind you of another poem, poet, or writer?
- What themes—ideas about life—emerge from the poem?

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