

Poetry Reading Strategies

Preview the poem by reading the title and paying attention to the poem's form: shape on the page, stanzas, number of lines and ending punctuation.

Read poem aloud several times to hear rhyme, rhythm, and the overall sound of the poem. This makes it easier to understand the poem.

Visualize the images by paying close attention to strong verbs, and comparisons in poem. Do the images remind you of anything? Let the comparisons paint a picture in your head.

Clarify words and phrases by allowing yourself to find the meaning of words or phrases that stand out, are repeated, or you do not understand the meaning. Use dictionary, context clues, teacher or peer.

Evaluate the poem's theme by asking what message is the poet trying to send or help you understand? Does it relate to your life in any way?