**Backwards Poetry** Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Part A:**

We can tell a lot about a poem based on the author’s word choice. Often times, word choice will help us determine **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Tone:** the author’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_toward the subject.

**Directions**: The words below have been taken from a poem and placed in alphabetical order. Read the list of words below and complete the following tasks:

1. Circle the FIVE words that you think are the most important to understanding the meaning of the poem. Explain why you chose these five and what they tell you about the poem below.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Next, make a few predictions based on what else you might know about the topic (setting, people, action) and explain how you know those things in the chart below. Provide evidence from the word list to support your thoughts.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Because I see the words… | I infer… |
|  |  |

Back

Barn

Bed

Bedroom

Below

Bible

Big

Boulders

Branches

Broken

Broken

Broken

Canned

Cellar

Cellar-hole

Child

Child

Cluttered

Cold

Covered

Cow

Dishes

Doll

Dusty

Empty

Farmer

Farming

Fields

Fields

Floor

Frames

God-fearing

Good

Gravel

Haste

Here

Him

House

House

Its

Jar

Jars

Kitchen

Leaky

Left

Length

Like

Lilacs

Lived

Lonely

Made

Man

Man

Man

Man

Money

Narrow

Nervous

Not

Not

Oilcloth

Overalls

Papered

Pile

Plow

Plum

Preserves

Rags

Road

Room

Rusty

Sandbox

Say

Say

Say

Say

Say

Says

Says

Says

Says

Says

Says

Says

Says

Scarce sealed

She shelves

Shoes

Size

something

Something

Still-sealed

Stones

Storm

Strewn

Sun

Tall

They

They tire tomatoes

Toys tractor

tractor

Upstairs

Wall

Weed-choked

Went

Went

Window

Window

Winters

Woman

Wrong

Wrong

Yard

Yard

1. Highlight/Underline words that have a negative connotation in one color, and those that have a positive connotation in another color.

Make a prediction about the tone based upon your findings.

Tone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Part B:**

**Personification**: giving \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_like qualities to objects that are non-human

**Directions:** Now read the poem in its original form. Make notes, observations, and ask questions you may have on your copy of the poem.

1. The author’s use of ***personification*** in this poem helps to tell the story of what happened. Consider the author’s choice of objects to tell the story and complete the chart below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Object | Comment (Text Evidence) | Inference |
| *The bedroom wall* | *“A woman lived with him”* | *A married couple lived in the house* |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**Part C:**

When reading poetry, the first thing people usually think of is “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”, but that is not the only way to play with sound. In addition to creating a pleasing sound, authors use alliteration to call attention to details or images in a piece of writing.

**Alliteration:** the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of initial consonant sounds

When analyzing alliteration, think about the following…

**Words**: what words alliterate (begin with the same sound?)

**Emphasis:** what is the author calling attention to with the alliteration?

1. What does the alliteration in the line, “On a pile of broken dishes by the house” emphasize?
2. What does the alliteration in the line, “In an upstairs room, and a good, God fearing man” emphasize?

**Poem Model Text**

**Your Task:** Create your own poem using “Abandoned Farmhouse” as a model text.

**Step 1:**

Think of a space or an event. Choose something that is comfortable and you know well.

(Example: Home, room, car, practice field, move, funeral, holiday, competition, meal etc.)

My space/event: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Step 2:**

List items that you would find in that space in the middle column. Be creative.

* What do the objects say about you or the event?
* Remember, what the object says comes first.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Says** | **Item** | **Location** |
| *She was an active girl* | *The running shoes* | *Cluttered floor* |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

***Example:*** *She was an active girl, say the running shoes discarded on the cluttered floor…*

**Step 3: Complete your Draft!**

Now you can use this outline to create your own imitative poem.

Must Haves:

* Your poem should be broken into stanzas (3 like your mentor text!)
* It should include at least 10 items and plenty of original details
* It should follow the same structure and formatting as the mentor text (“Abandoned Farmhouse”)
* The last stanza must have: ***a line that is repeated, a central question, and a simile.***

**Consider:**

* What message do you want revealed?