

## Dissecting a Poem

1. **Title** – What does it mean?
2. **Poet** – Do you know anything about this person? Are you familiar with other poems by the same poet?
3. **Pictures** – Are there any pictures on the page? What do they represent? Are they clues to the meaning of the poem?
4. **Read the poem to yourself** in a whisper level. Try to listen for the rhythm/beat of the words.
5. **Circle Key Words** in the poem while you read.
6. **Ask yourself questions** about the poem –
  - a. Who/what is the **subject** of the poem?
  - b. Is the **speaker** a man, woman or something else?
  - c. What is the **setting** of the poem?
  - d. What is the **intended audience** for the poem?
  - e. What is the **tone/feel** of the poem? (sad, happy, inspirational)
  - f. What is the **overall message** of the poem?
7. Mark the **Rhyme Scheme** to the right of the poem.
8. Look for **Repetition** – Try to figure out why lines are repeated.
9. Look for **poetic devices** – **SHAMPOO** – mark them on the paper.