TOASTERS: a mnemonic for poetry

Title	The title is part of the poem; consider any multiple meanings.
Organization	Identify organizational patterns: visual, temporal, spatial…
Attitudes	Identify the tone—both the speaker's and the poet's attitude
Shifts ↓	Locate shifts in speaker, tone, setting, syntax, diction…
Tools ↘	Which literary devices enhance the poem's meaning?
Echo	Biblical, mythological, historical, literary….
Reason	What is the poem's theme—its reason for being?
Sound	Locate sound repetition: (1) rhythm, pace, (2) rhyme, alliteration, assonance, consonance…

SHIFTS (STP)

Signals	Key words (*still, but, yet, although, however…*) Punctuation (consider every punctuation mark) Stanza or paragraph divisions Changes in line length or stanza length or both
Types	Structure (how the work is organized) Changes in syntax (sentence length and construction) Changes in sound (rhyme, rhythm, alliteration, assonance…) Changes in diction (slang to formal language, for example)
Patterns	Are the shifts sudden? progressive? recursive? Why?

TOOLS (FRIED)

Figurative Language	metaphor, simile, irony, personification, allegory, apostrophe, metonymy/synecdoche, hyperbole, overstatement/understatement
Reference & Allusion	a symbol or a mention, direct or indirect, intended to bring something or someone to mind
Imagery	an appeal to the senses—usually visual, but also auditory, tactile, olfactory…
Extended Meaning	denotation and connotation: literal meaning and suggestion
Diction	**the choice of a word or phrase (or a pattern of words and phrases) to fit a specific purpose**