READING LITERATURE/POETRY ANALYSIS CHECK

First Read — The Basics

Subject—What is the subject of the text?
Action—What happens in the text? Are the events important?
Character/Relationship—Does the text/poem focus on a character or relationship?
Setting—Does setting play a role? Think in terms of physical setting!
Narrator—Who is speaking? What kind of narrator? First of Third Person? Involved with the narrative or detached?

Second Read

Themes and Ideas—What themes/ideas does the text/poem explore? Why has it been written (Author's Purpose)?

Third Read

Imagery—In what ways does the text make use of descriptive and sensory details (hear, touch, smell, sight, taste)?
Figurative Language—What role do similes/metaphors/personification/symbols/allusions/hyperbole play?
Sound—How does the text make use of sound? Consider alliteration, rhyme, assonance, onomatopoeia, and others.

Fourth Read

Diction—Comment on the vocabulary used in the text/poem. What kinds of words have been chosen? Simple or complex? Why does the author choose that specific word or phrase?
Structure—How has the extract been constructed? Stanzas or paragraphs? Does each deal with a different idea, or represent a point of development? In other words, does the layout contribute to the meaning? What types of syntax are used? How long are the lines? Are there run-on sentences? Are there any patterns that emerge?
Tone—What kinds of feelings does the author express towards the subject of the text?

Putting It All Together