**Step-by-Step Poetry Analysis**

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| **Title** | What do the words of the title suggest to you? What literal meaning is presented in the title? What figurative meaning do the words possess? | | |
| **Paraphrase** | Translate the poem in your own words. What is the poem about? | | |
| **Figurative Meaning**  **(What meanings exist beyond the literal?)** | What meaning does the poem have beyond the literal meaning? Fill in the chart below. | | |
| Form (How are the stanzas arranged? How are line breaks used?) | Imagery (Sensory Details) | Poetic Devices |
| **Tone** | What is the narrator’s tone? How does the narrator feel about him/herself, about others, and about the subject? What is the author’s tone? How does the author feel about the narrator, about other characters, about the subject, and the reader? | | |
| Narrator: | | |
| Author: | | |
| **Theme** | What is the overall message of the poem? | | |

**Step-by-Step Poetry Analysis**

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| **Title**  **“The Dandelion Wars” by Liam Anderson** | **What do the words of the title suggest to you? What literal meaning is presented in the title? What figurative meaning do the words possess?**  L: Some sort of fight with flower or flower against flower  F: Wars can be external or internal  After reading: “Dandelion Wars” can refer to the childhood game that the speaker used to play, but on a deeper level, it can refer to the internal war that young adults battle when losing childhood innocence. | | |
| **Paraphrase** | **Translate the poem in your own words. What is the poem about?**  The narrator in the poem is playing make believe as a kid and pretending to be King Lord Sir Mr. Al Bob. He is at war with the dandelion soldiers and must defeat them by decapitating them. He is now older and watches his brother playing make believe and wonders why his brother is acting so silly. He remembers being a kid again and sees the fun part of him he left behind. He goes out to play with his brother to reminisce about his childhood. | | |
| **Figurative Meaning**  **(What meanings exist beyond the literal?)** | **What meaning does the poem have beyond the literal meaning? Fill in the chart below.** | | |
| **Form (How are the stanzas arranged? How are line breaks used?)**  Free verse  “And I miss it” – stanza all alone = important | **Imagery (Sensory Details)**  Hundreds of yellow heads  Wild battle scream  Shaking in their shoes  Hum my war song  Frightening frown, eyes narrowed, ears back  Hum Wishbone’s theme song | **Poetic Devices**  I gaze upon the army (metaphor)  Yellow heads (metaphor)  No prisoners (metaphor)  I know they are deadly (personification)  First man (metaphor)  Smile, scream, show skills; shaking in shoes; lie on the lawn; frightening frown(alliteration)  Shaking in their shoes (personification)  Grunt (onomatopoeia) |
| **Tone** | **What is the narrator’s tone? How does the narrator feel about him/herself, about others, and about the subject? What is the author’s tone? How does the author feel about the narrator, about other characters, about the subject, and the reader?** | | |
| **Narrator:** As a kid playing war, the speaker’s tone is one of confidence and bravado  As a young adult, the speaker’s tone is one of nostalgia  **Author:** The author’s tone shows a longing for childhood and innocence | | |
| **Theme** | What is the overall message of the poem?  The theme is coming of age and the struggle some people have with losing their childhood innocence and entering adulthood. The speaker in this poem, embraces that innocence when he sees his little brother playing make believe. We are reminded that we can always be young at heart. | | |

Poetry Reflection Sheet (Early)

Name of Song/Poem: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Artist/Writer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What story is the poem trying to tell? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name two poetic devices that are in your song and write down the phrase as evidence.

Device Phrase from Song

What is your favourite part of the song/poem, and why?

Choose six descriptive words from the poem/song that stuck out to you:

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

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

Poetry Reflection Sheet (Accommodated)

Name of Song/Poem: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Artist/Writer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What was your initial emotional response to the poem/song? How did it make you feel, and why?

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What is the poem about?

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What is the theme (message) of the poem/song?

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What are four examples of poetic devices used in this poem? Give the word or phrase as evidence.

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| **Poetic Device** | **Word/Phrase as Evidence** |
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Poetry Reflection Sheet (Accommodated)

Name of Song/Poem: “The Dandelion Wars”

Artist/Writer: Liam Anderson

**What was your initial emotional response to the poem/song? How did it make you feel, and why?**

This poem makes me nostaligic for childhood. It makes me think about the importance of holding on to our inner child.

**What is the poem about?**

The speaker in the poem reminisces about when he was a young boy and would pretend to be a King at war with dandelion soldiers, which he would defeat by decapitating them with his “sword”. He is now older and watches his brother playing a similar game and he wonders why his brother is acting so silly. He remembers being a kid again and sees the fun part of him he left behind – he then goes out to play with his brother and reconnects with his inner child.

**What is the theme (message) of the poem/song?**

The theme is coming of age and the struggle some people have with losing their childhood innocence and entering adulthood. The speaker in this poem, embraces that innocence when he sees his little brother playing make believe. We are reminded that we can always be young at heart.

**What are four examples of poetic devices used in this poem? Give the word or phrase as evidence.**

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| **Poetic Device** | **Word/Phrase as Evidence** |
| metaphor | “I gaze upon the army: hundreds of yellow heads” |
| Alliteration | “shaking in shoes” |
| Alliteration | frightening frown |
| onomatopoeia | Grunt |

Poetry Reflection Sheet

Name of Song/Poem: “The Dandelion Wars”

Artist/Writer: Liam Anderson

**What was your initial emotional response to the poem/song?**  **Which parts of the poem/song elicited that response?**

This poem makes me nostalgic for childhood. It makes me think about the importance of holding on to our inner child. Beautiful visual details such as the “hundreds of yellow heads” combined with sound details like the “wild battle scream” help to create a vivid picture in my mind of the boy’s imaginary world.

**Translate the poem in your own words. What is the poem about?**

The narrator in the poem reminisces about when he was a young boy and would pretend to be a King at war with dandelion soldiers, which he would defeat by decapitating them with his “sword”. He is now older and watches his brother playing a similar game and he wonders why his brother is acting so silly. He remembers being a kid again and sees the fun part of him he left behind – he then goes out to play with his brother and reconnects with his inner child.

**What do you think is the theme of the poem/song? Write this in paragraph form, using a quote to support your response.**

“Dandelion Wars” refers to a childhood game that the speaker used to play, but on a deeper level, it can refer to the internal war that young adults battle when losing childhood innocence. The theme is coming of age and when the speaker embraces his childhood innocence at the end of the poem, we are reminded that we can always be young at heart. The structure of the poem is free verse, and while most stanzas are similar in length, one stands out – “And I miss it”. This line is given a stanza all on its own, which highlights the importance of this line. Indeed, the speaker misses being a child, which is a central theme in the poem.

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| **Poetic Device** | **Evidence from Text** | **Effect on Poem/Song** |
| Metaphor | “I gaze upon the army: hundreds of yellow heads” | The poet uses the metaphor of an army to describe the dandelions, which paints a clearer picture of the boy’s imaginary world. |
| Personification | “they are deadly” and “shaking in their shoes”. | The author uses personification to give the dandelions human qualities, which puts us in the young boy’s shoes as he uses his imagination. |
| onomatopoeia | “grunt” | This word demonstrates the confidence that the author had when he was within his imaginary world. |

**What are three examples of poetic devices used in this poem? Explain how it influences the overall effect of the poem/song.**

Poetry Reflection Sheet

Name of Song/Poem: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Artist/Writer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What was your initial emotional response to the poem/song? Which parts of the poem/song elicited that response?

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Translate the poem in your own words. What is the poem about?

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What do you think is the theme of the poem/song? Write this in paragraph form, using a quote to support your response.

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| **Poetic Device** | **Evidence from Text** | **Effect on Poem/Song** |
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What are three examples of poetic devices used in this poem? Explain how it influences the overall effect of the poem/song.