

The Nuts and Bolts of Knowledge Needed for the AP Test

I- Diction

- a. monosyllabic / polysyllabic
- b. colloquial / informal / formal / old fashioned / slang
- c. denotative / connotative
- d. euphonious / cacophonous
- e. concrete / abstract
- f. jargon / dialect

II- Syntax

- a. sentence length
- b. sentence pattern
 - Declarative / imperative / exclamatory / interrogative
 - Simple / compound / complex / compound complex
 - Juxtaposition
 - Parallel structure
 - Repetition
 - Rhetorical questioning
- c. arrangement of ideas in a sentence
- d. arrangement of ideas in a paragraph

III- Treatment of Subject Matter

- a. subjectivity
- b. objectivity
- c. support of main idea
 - Opinion, experiences, observation, reading, expert witnesses, statistical data

IV- Figurative Language (how an author conveys meaning)

- a. alliteration: the repetition of initial syllable sounds
- b. assonance: the repetition of vowel sounds
- c. consonance: the repetition of consonance sounds
- d. simile: comparing two unlike things using the words *like* or *as*
- e. metaphor: comparing two unlike things
- f. personification: giving inanimate objects human qualities
- g. onomatopoeia: words that imitate the sound they are expressing, example: pop, sizzle, buzz
- h. hyperbole: exaggeration
- i. understatement (meiosis, litotes)
- j. paradox: a seemingly contradictory statement that may in fact be true
- k. oxymoron: contradictory statement
- l. pun: a play on words or phrases
- m. irony: the opposite of what is expected
- n. sarcasm: harsh or bitter derision or irony
- o. antithesis: the direct opposite
- p. apostrophe: an address to someone who is not present

- or to a personified object or idea
- q. allusion: a reference to something else, a work of literature, the Bible, Greek Mythology, etc.
- r. metonymy: A figure of speech in which one word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated (i.e.- *scepter* for *sovereignty* or *the bottle* for *strong drink*)
- s. figure of speech: common saying
- t. flashback: an event or scene that is inserted out of chronological order
- u. foreshadowing: hints as to what will happen later
- v. imagery: the use of one or more of the five senses to describe something
- w. mood: the atmosphere or feeling in a literary work
- x. narration
- y. plot: the series of events in a literary work
- z. point of view: the type of narration, usually 1st or 3rd person, omniscient narration is all knowing
- aa. protagonist: main character
- bb. rhyme (end / slant / internal / rhyme scheme)
- cc. setting: time and place
- dd. Structure: shape and form
- ee. Style
- ff. suspense
- gg. symbol: an object that stands for an idea
- hh. theme: central idea
- ii. allegory: the use of symbolic characters to tell a moral tale

V- Point of View

- a. participant (first person)—I, me, my, we, us, our
 - Narrator as major character
 - Narrator as minor character
 - Innocent-eye narrator
 - Stream of consciousness
- b. non-participant (third person)—he, him, her, she, they, them
 - Omniscient narrator
 - Selective (limited) narrator
 - Objective narrator
- c. second person (participant or non-participant)—you, your, yourself

VI- Archetypes

- a. character archetypes
 - Hero
 - Young man from the provinces
 - Initiates
 - Mentors
 - Mentor-pupil
 - Father-son conflict
 - Hunting group of companions

- Loyal retainers
- Friendly beast
- Civil figure with good heart
- Scapegoat
- Outcast
- Devil figure
- Create of nightmare
- Woman figures—
 - Earth mother
 - Temptress
 - Platonic ideal
 - Unfaithful wife
 - Damsel in distress

b. symbolic archetypes

- Light vs darkness
- Water vs desert
- Heaven vs hell
- Innate wisdom vs educated stupidity
- Haven vs wilderness
- Supernatural intervention
- Magic weapon

c. situational archetypes

- Quest-journey
- Task
- Initiation
- Journey – search for truth
- Fall
- Death and resurrection
- Nature vs mechanistic world
- Battled between good and evil
- Unhealable wound
- Ritual

VII- Allusion

- a. personal
- b. biblical
- c. mythological
- d. historical
- e. literary to literary

VIII- Themes

Abuse / neglect
 Alienation
 Ambition
 Appearance vs reality
 Betrayal
 Bureaucracy
 Children
 Courage / cowardice
 Chance / fate / luck
 Cruelty / violence
 Custom / tradition
 Defeat / failure
 Despair / discontent / disillusionment

Dreams / fantasies
 Domination / suppression
 Duty / allegiance / blind faith
 Escape / confinement
 Ethic vs morality / right vs wrong
 Exile / persecution
 Falsity / pretense / affectation
 Family / parenthood / deconstructed family
 Gender evolution
 The isms (prejudices: sexism, racism, classism, anti-Semitism, sizism, ageism, lookism)
 Deconstructed family
 Free will / will power
 Greed
 Heaven / paradise / utopia
 Home
 Heart vs. reason
 Initiation
 Illusion / innocence
 Instinct
 Journey
 Law / justice / revenge
 Education / school
 Loneliness / alienation
 Materialism
 Memory / past
 Mob psychology
 Mysterious danger
 Nature vs. mechanistic world
 Persistence / perseverance
 Patriotism
 Poverty / class
 Prophecy
 Redemption / salvation
 Repentance
 Resistance / rebellion
 Revenge / retribution
 Ritual / ceremony
 Scapegoat / victim / suicide
 Media
 Search for self
 Time
 War

***A thematic statement = elevated diction + comment on book

IX- Characterization (POV / narrator)

What or where characters... say, do, think, wear, are; with whom they associate, what others say about them

X- Analyzing Tragedy and Tragic Fiction

Aristolian Theory:

unity of action
catharsis
tragedy (hubris)
scene of suffering

XI- Tone (feeling/mood/attitude/effect)

Lighthearted
Confident
Amused
Complementary
Hopeful
Cheery
Elated
Passionate
Exuberant
Optimistic
Sympathetic
Proud
Enthusiastic
Loving
Compassionate
Indignant
Foreboding
Reverent
Irreverent
Diffident
Contemptuous
Angry
Furious
Irritated
Accusing
Disgusted
Indignant
Condemnatory
Outraged
Bitter
Threatening
Inflammatory
Disdainful
Formal
Ceremonial
Restrained
Detached
Objective
Informative
Candid
Clinical
Objective
Questioning
Instructive
Matter-of-fact
Admonitory
Learned factual
Didactic

Informative
Authoritative
Incredulous
Shocked
Baffled
Disbelieving
Urgent
Nostalgic
Reminiscent
Sentimental
Whimsical
Fanciful
Scornful
Sarcastic
Critical
Satiric
Bantering
Taunting
Ironic
Amused
Patronizing
Pompous
Disdainful
Cynical
Facetious
Sardonic
Insolent
Flippant
Condescending
Mock-heroic
Whimsical
Melancholic
Mournful
Apprehensive
Despairing
Foreboding
Resigned
Elegiac
Sentimental
Didactic
Pedantic
Disturbed
Serious
Fearful
Sober
Staid
Somber
Sad
Solemn
Concerned
Gloomy
Hopeless

TP-CASTT

A Way to Identify Poetic Devices

T-TITLE: ponder the title before reading the poem

P-PARAPHRASE: translate the poem for meaning beyond the literal and into your own words

C-CONNOTATION: contemplate the poem for meaning beyond the literal

A-ATTITUDE: observe both the speaker's and poet's attitude (tone)

S-SHIFTS: note shifts in speaker's and poet's attitude

T-TITLE: examine the title again—this time on an interpretive level

T-THEME: determine what the poet is saying

DIDLS

A Way to Understand Poetry Through the Examination of the Author's Tone or Attitude Towards the Subject

D-DICTION: the connotation of word choice

I-IMAGES: vivid appeals to understanding through the senses

D-DETAILS: facts included or omitted

L-LANGUAGE: overall use of language such as formal, jargon, clinical...

S-SENTENCE STRUCTURE: how structure effects the reader's attitude