Reading Poetry: Both for Meaning and Aloud

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| **Poetry Reading Tips:** | |
| 1. | Pay attention to use of sounds, repetitions, patterns (includes rhyme and rhythm). |
| 2. | Pay attention to the layout of the text. |
| 3. | Recognise language techniques, for example, metaphor, symbol. |
| 4. | Look for ambiguous, surprising or contradictory meanings, hyperbole |
| 5. | Oxymorons (words)/juxtapositions (ideas or phrases) – use of contrast |
| 6. | Word choice (connotations)/emotive words |
| 7. | Reflect on individual experiences, values or feelings about the subject. |
| 8. | Look for a general comment about life, or society, or people. |

***3 Main Steps for Reading a Poem:***

1. Read for meaning and effects of language use and techniques.
   * + Read several times.
     + Read in sentences, not lines.
     + Check meanings of key words.
     + Annotate the text for the blue things in above table, noting questions.
     + Work out subject and main ideas.
     + Explore impacts on audience of the language use and techniques further and add to your annotations.
     + Try out alternative readings of words, phrases.
     + Work out answers to your questions.
2. Read for themes and ideas (see table):
3. Read for tone and mood:

* Assign the tone or feeling you think the poet is trying to communicate in each section, phrase or word (it may help to highlight sections in different colours)
* To create appropriate mood while you are reading, imagine a particular tone of voice for each section, phrase or word (bored? despairing?). This will be created by using expression and emphasis.
* Assign appropriate volume, and speed to reflect the tone and mood for each section, phrase or word.