The Basics

What? A Mnemonic device used to analyze poetry (**T**itle, **P**araphrase, **C**onnotation, **A**ttitude/Tone, **S**hifts, **T**itle Again, **T**heme)

When? As students read poetry

Why? Focuses student thinking about poetry and prepares students to discuss and write about poetry

Student Outcomes

This strategy helps students refine their understanding of poetry to meet reading expectations, engage in group conversations to meet speaking and listening expectations, prepare for writing about texts, and engage in language analysis of poetry.

How to Implement

1. Choose a poem to read and decide how it will be read by the students (independently, small group, whole group).
2. Create a writing prompt or series of discussion questions pertaining to the text.
3. Establish TP-CASTT guidelines for students. See "Resources for Additional Information" for a sample.
4. Have students follow the TP-CASTT guidelines as they read the poem.
5. After students finish reading, introduce the writing prompt or begin a discussion of the text.

Resources for Additional Information

- TP-CASTT Handouts: Option One, Option Two
- Handout for students from ReadWriteThink.org
- Brief blog, which discusses each step of TP-CASTT
- Examples of how to use in lessons: Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12