

My Favourite Poem

How to structure an answer

Introduction

- ✦ Name the poem and the poet
- ✦ Be sure to write both of these correctly!
- ✦ Answer the question

Examples

- ✦ If I had to recommend one poem for inclusion in a publication entitled 'A Book of Favourite Poems for Young People of the 21st Century', I would choose Wendy Cope's 'Tich Miller'.
- ✦ If I had to recommend one poem for inclusion in a poetry collection for young people, I would have no hesitation in choosing W.B. Yeats' classic 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree'.

Theme

- ✦ Why does the message of the poem appeal to you?
- ✦ Is it relevant to young people today?

Links

As well as the theme...

It is not only...

The poet also...

Another aspect of the
poem which interests me
is...



Characters

- ✦ Are the characters in the poem to whom we can relate?
- ✦ Does the poet bring them to life for us?
- ✦ What quotes support your point?

Language

- ✦ Is it straightforward and accessible?
- ✦ Is it rich and full of vivid descriptions?
- ✦ Is the level of the language suitable for the theme of the poem? (If the poem is about childhood, is the language simple, for example?)

Imagery

- ✦ What metaphors and similes does the poet use to bring the scene or scenes to life for us?
- ✦ In 'Tich Miller', for example, we have the 'fortunate bird' and the 'wire-mesh fence'.

Tone

- ✦ Use words that you might use to describe tone of voice.
- ✦ Poignant, heart-rending, uplifting, bitter, angry etc.



Structure of the poem

- ✦ In 'Tich Miller' and 'Mid-Term Break', we have a final line which stands alone.
- ✦ Is the structure of the poem appropriate for the theme and does it help you to understand / appreciate the poem?

Conclusion

- ✦ Refer back to the question.
- ✦ End with a quote if you can think of a suitable one!