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

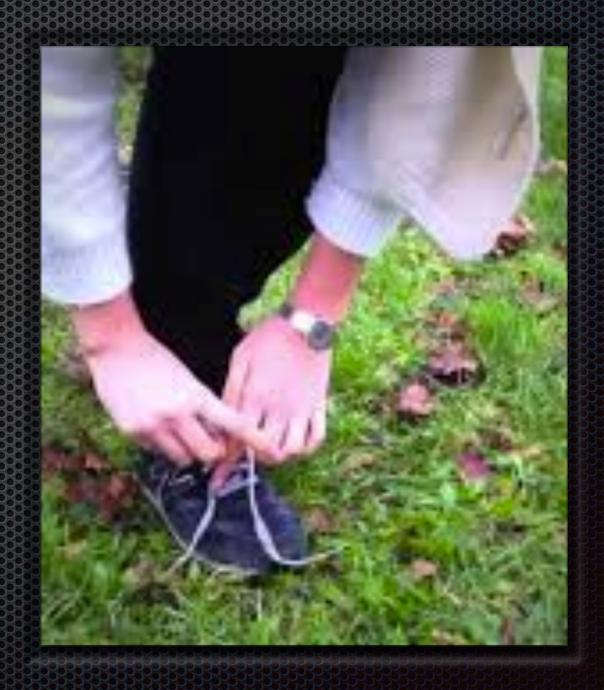
- Is it straightforward and accessible?
- Is it rich and full of vivid descriptions?
- Is the level of the language suitable for the theme of the poem? (If the poem is about childhood, is the language simple, for example?)

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!