

Weekly Poem

Name: _____ Period: _____ DEADLINE: _____

Overview: Read the poem first to enjoy it. Read it straight on through, preferably aloud. Then read it again (and again). Now identify the following and annotate the poem for each literary device and feature:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <i>S: Speaker</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Identify the speaker and any character traits of the speaker○ Who is the speaker addressing?○ What is the speaker's topic, argument, etc.<input type="checkbox"/> <i>T: Tone</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ What is the dominant tone?○ Where is it and where do you think the shift occurs?<input type="checkbox"/> <i>I: Imagery</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Isolate major images – what do you see, hear, smell, hear, taste, feel? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <i>F: Figurative Language</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Identify every metaphor, simile, apostrophe, personification, hyperbole and more○ Determine what is really being said and how it relates to the rest of the poem.<input type="checkbox"/> <i>S: Sounds</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ What sound elements are most striking and why?○ Identify sound repetition, cacophony/euphony, etc. |
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Now answer this question in a **thesis statement**: What is this poem about and how do you know this?

“Blackberry-Picking” By Seamus Heaney

Late August, given heavy rain and sun
For a full week, the blackberries would ripen.
At first, just one, a glossy purple clot
Among others, red, green, hard as a knot.
You ate that first one and its flesh was sweet
Like thickened wine: summer's blood was in it
Leaving stains upon the tongue and lust for
Picking. Then red ones inked up and that hunger
Sent us out with milk cans, pea tins, jam-pots
Where briars scratched and wet grass bleached our boots.
Round hayfields, cornfields and potato-drills¹
We trekked and picked until the cans were full,
Until the tinkling bottom had been covered
With green ones, and on top big dark blobs burned
Like a plate of eyes. Our hands were peppered
With thorn pricks, our palms sticky as Bluebeard's.²

We hoarded the fresh berries in the byre.³
But when the bath was filled we found a fur,
A rat-grey fungus, glutting on our cache.
The juice was stinking too. Once off the bush
The fruit fermented, the sweet flesh would turn sour.
I always felt like crying. It wasn't fair
That all the lovely canfuls smelt of rot.
Each year I hoped they'd keep, knew they would not.

¹ Planted rows

² Bluebeard is a character in a fairy tale who murders his wives.

³ Barn