

## How To Interrogate a Poem Template

Why is the **title**, the title? What does it mean?

- Titles are chosen carefully by poets and usually offer more information than you might at first notice.

*Meditation!?! Hmmm... this means to contemplate something, and because Donne was religious he was referring to religious contemplation. He wanted his audience to think about something...*

Space for your own ideas/notes:

Who is the **speaker** in the poem?

- Is the speaker young? Old? Wise? Foolish? Male? Female? Trustworthy? Dishonest?

*The speaker in the poem is not identified. It's possible it could be Donne himself. Whoever the speaker is, he/she seems wise, honorable, and thoughtful.*

Space for your own ideas and notes:

What is the poem's **setting**?

- What time of year is it? Inside or Outside? Is there an event going on?

*There is no clear setting described. Europe is mentioned though.*

Space for your own ideas and notes:

What **type of poem** is it?

- Lyric or narrative? Sonnet? Free Verse?

*This poem is like a piece of prose put into the form and shape of a poem. As a poem, it is free verse.*

Space for your own ideas and notes:

What **poetic devices and techniques** have been used?

- Rhyme scheme?
- Poetic Devices? Look for alliteration, allusion, hyperbole, metaphor, simile, personification, and others.

*The metaphor that no man is an island is used throughout—an extended metaphor. "Every man is a part of the continent" "Any man's death diminishes me"*

Space for your own ideas and notes:

What is the **tone** of the poem?

- What feeling word would best describe the overall tone?

*Serious  
Formal  
Thoughtful*

Space for your own ideas and notes:

What is the **theme** of the poem?

- Is the theme of the poem directly stated or implied?
- In one sentence, what is the main idea about life presented in the poem?

*"I am involved in mankind" and so any person's death is a loss to me.  
OR  
We all die, the funeral bell ultimately "tolls for thee."*