

*What is SOAPSTone?  
Another look at explicating a poem*

- What is the Subject? (What)**
- S** In a few words or phrases, identify the general topic, content, and ideas.
- What is the Occasion? (When/Where)**
- O** Identify the time and place of the poem: the poet's "current" situation. What is the context that encouraged the writing to happen?
- Who is the Audience? (Whom)**
- A** Identify the group of readers to whom the poem is directed. The audience may be one person, a small group, or a large group; it may be a certain person or certain people. Remember that the writer always writes for someone!
- What is the Purpose? (Why)**
- P** Identify the reason that the poet is writing.
- Who is the Speaker? (Who)**
- S** What voice tells the story? The poet may write from a different perspective or viewpoint than his or her own. Consider age, gender, ethnicity, social class, etc. when identifying the speaker.
- What is the Tone? (How)**
- Tone** Identify the poet's attitude toward the subject and the mood it sets for the reader. Is it happy, angry, sad, bitter, weary, encouraging, etc.? Does it lecture or inform?

*For each of the above items, make sure that you are using specific examples of lines from the poem in order to support your explications!*