

Exploring Riddle Poem Techniques Questions

What is the Answer?

- Is the answer a concrete object such as a desk or a car? Or is it an abstract concept such as happiness or peace?
- How specific is the answer? Is it very specific such as *Tonya's white cat*? Is it specific such as *blue cheese*? Or is it general such as *car*?
- Why do you think the author choose to write a riddle about something general? How much harder would it be to write (and guess the answer to) a poem with a more specific answer like *river*? And how about an even more specific answer like *Stark's Pond*?

What clues does the poem contain?

- What clues does the riddle contain?
- How do the clues work? Are they direct, such as "You find me in a well," or "Wet, I can burn you,/ Dry, I can keep you warm"?

What is the perspective of the poem?

- Does the poem adopt the persona of the object or does the riddle present the information from a third-person perspective?
- How does this choice in perspective affect the types of clues used?
- How does this choice in perspective work to trick the audience?

How does the riddle use figurative language?

- What types of figurative language does this poem use? Imagery? Metaphor? Metonymy? Onomatopoeia? Personification? Simile? Synecdoche?
- How does the use of figurative language provide clues?
- How does the use of figurative language work to trick the audience?

How does the poem use rhetorical devices and poetic devices?

- What rhetorical devices does the poem use? Asyndeton? Antithesis? Chiasmus? Parallelism? Zeugma? If used, are these rhetorical devices used to emphasize the clues?
- Does the poem make use of poetic sound techniques? Alliteration? Assonance? Consonance? If used, are these sound techniques used to emphasize the clues?
- Does the poem use visual clues such as its shape, capitalization, or formatting (bold, italic, larger font size) to emphasize the clues?