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?**
- 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?