It can be daunting to analyze poetry and remembering all the literary devices that one must analyze for. This pneumonic device should help you remember.

**Title**

Examine the title before reading the poem. Sometimes the title will give you a clue about the content of the poem. In some cases, the title will give you crucial information that will help you understand a major idea within the poem. For example, in Anne Bradstreet’s poem “An Author to Her Book,” the title helps you understand the controlling metaphor.

**Paraphrase**

Paraphrase the ***literal*** action within the poem. At this point, resist the urge to jump to interpretation. A failure to understand what happens literally inevitably leads to an interpretive misunderstanding. For example, John Donne’s poem “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning” is about a man who is leaving for a long trip, but if it is read as a poem about a man dying, then a misreading of the poem is inevitable.

**Speaker**

Who is the speaker in this poem? Remember to always distinguish speaker from the poet. In some cases, the speaker and poet might be the same, as in an autobiographical poem, but often the speaker and the poet are entirely different. For example, “Not My Best Side” by Fanthorpe, the speaker changes from a dragon, to a damsel, to a knight—none of these, obviously, are Fanthorpe.

**Figurative Language**

Examine the poem for language that is not used literally. This would include, but is certainly not limited to, literary devices such as imagery, symbolism, metaphor, hyperbole, meiosis, allusion, the effect of sound devices (alliteration, onomatopoeia, assonance, consonance, rhyme), and any other devices used in a non-literal manner).

**Attitude (TONE)**

Tone, meaning the speaker’s attitude towards the subject of the poem. Of course, this means that you must discern the subject of the poem. In some cases, it will be narrow, and in others it will be broad. Also keep in mind the speaker’s attitude toward self, other characters, and the subject, as well as attitude of characters other than the speaker. See DITS for help in analyzing tone.

**Shifts**

Note shifts in speaker and attitude. Shifts can be indicated in a number of ways including the speaker’s perspective, occasion of poem (time and place), key turn words (but, yet), punctuation (dashes, period, colons, etc.), stanza divisions, changes in line or stanza length, and anything else that indicates that something has changed or a question is being answered.

**Title**

Examine the title again, this time on an interpretative level: How does the title reflect your interpretation of the text?

**Theme**

First list what the poem is about (subject), then determine what the poet is saying about each of those subjects (theme). Remember, theme must be expressed as at least one complete sentence.

**LITERARY DEVICES**

In order to do a thorough TPS-FASTT, you must understand the language of literature analysis. That includes Literary Devices.

The Literary Devices identified specifically in CollegeBoard’s Big Ideas are

* Point of view (used in conjunction with Perspective)
* Metaphor
* Simile
* Symbol
* Allusion
* Diction
* Imagery
* Tone
* Irony
* Character
* Setting

Other Literary Devices you should know that will add to the sophistication of your writing are:

* Allegory
* Apostrophe
* Connotation/denotation
* Euphemism
* Foreshadowing
* Form/structure
* Hyperbole
* Meiosis
* Mood
* Metonymy
* Paradox
* Parallelism
* Parody
* Personification
* Pun
* Onomatopoeia
* Oxymoron
* Satire
* Shift
* Synecdoche