Lyric Poem Analysis

Name ___________________________

Type 3
English 10: Carothers       Hour ____

Poems for Selection

O Captain! My Captain  Bloodstained Kiss  Dog’s Death
In Memory of a Child  Villanelle of Our Time  Notice What This Poem Is Not
The Shoes  Dream Deferred  Doing
Nothing Gold Can Stay  Dreams  Rip Rap
The Sky is Low  I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud  Spilled
Morning  Women  Nikki Rosa
Do Not Go Gentle into that  My Mistress’ Eyes Are Nothing  Poetry Should Ride the Bus
Good Night  Like the Sun  To an Athlete Dying Young

Process
1. Go through the “How to Read a Poem” process, and jot down any notes as you go.
2. Label all the poetic techniques you can find in the poem.
3. Decide what the theme of the poem is.

Essay
I. Introduction: Begin with an engaging attention getter. Next, transition into the title and author of the poem you are analyzing. Finally, transition into your thesis statement. This should mention what the theme of the poem is and what poetic technique helps support it.

II. Body Paragraph: In a nicely flowing paragraph, provide answers to the following questions:
   • Who is speaking in the poem, and to whom are they speaking?
   • What are they speaking about? Give an example to show how you know this.
   • What kind of attitude does the speaker have towards the subject of the poem?
   • What is the purpose of the poem – to tell a story? Show the poet’s feelings on a topic? Explore a memory or an idea? Explain how you know this.

III. Body Paragraph: Discuss how ONE aspect of the poem helps contribute to what you think the subject of the poem is. Quote lines from the poem to support your discussion of this. You can choose from the following but are not limited to:
   - Symbolism
   - Imagery
   - Personification
   - Metaphor
   - Simile
   - Alliteration
   - Irony
   - Title
   - Form
   - Use of color
   - Use of punctuation
   - Repetition

Explain what that aspect shows about the subject – in other words, what is the author’s theme? Reference lines from the poem here, too!

IV. Body Paragraph: Finally, discuss how you personally relate to the poem – use 2-3 specific examples to discuss how the poem relates to you.

V. Conclusion: Reiterates thesis statement and closes in a clever way.

FCAs
1. Demonstrates a clear understanding of the poem (10)
2. Focuses on the aspect and how the aspect reveals the subject in the poem and uses specific, appropriate lines from the poem to support this (10)
3. Elaborates on how the aspect develops the theme by explaining the examples from the poem (10)
4. Discusses how the theme/subject of the poem relates to you through specific examples (10)