

## Poetry Theme Literary Analysis - Planning Guide, OPTION 1

### 1. Writing Your Thesis Statement

**Example:** In Edgar Allan Poe's poem "Annabel Lee" and Lisa Olstein's poem "Dear One Absent This Long While", both poets use poetic language and devices to help the reader learn that as time goes on people can still long for the return of those they have lost.

**Directions:** Using your theme keyword, create **ONE** universal theme statement for **BOTH** poems.

The poems "Do Not go Gentle into the Night" by Dylan Thomas and "Because I Could not Stop for Death" by Emily Dickinson are both about death and say that death is inevitable yet each author views death in a distinct way either by embracing it or fighting it.

(T.A.G. for both poem A and B + theme keyword + lesson/message)

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Teacher Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Gathering Evidence to Support Your Thesis

**Directions:** Look for the **TWO** strongest pieces of evidence that support the thesis. Use your 4-Part Strategy sheets to guide you. Begin with sentence starters such as "This means," "This supports," etc.

Do Not go Gentle into that Good Night

Title and Author of Poem A:

<p><b>Type of Poetic Language/Device:</b> Symbolism <b>Text Evidence #1</b></p> <p>"Do not go gentle into that good night/ Old age should burn and rave at close of day/ Rage, and rage against the dying of the light."</p>	<p><b>Type of Poetic Language/Device:</b> Personification <b>Text Evidence #2</b></p> <p>"And you, my father, there on the sad height/ Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray/ Do not go gentle into that good night."</p>
<p><b>Reasoning:</b></p> <p>Dylan Thomas uses symbolism of the "night" as death and the "light" as life when he says to not go gentle into the good night and that people need to fight back against the dying "light." This means that when time comes and it looks like death is near, we need to not allow "night" to take us. This matters because no family members want their family to die so it makes sense to want your loved one to fight back. Dylan Thomas views death in a way that is not positive and is clearly not happy with death and thinks people should fight and not easily into the</p>	<p><b>Reasoning:</b></p> <p>Dylan Thomas later in the poem uses personification when he begs his dad to fight with "fierce tears." He is pleading with his dad to not allow death to take him by urging him to fight. This means that Thomas thinks his dad has at least one more fight left in him with his fierce tears. This matters because when people are at their last moments they need to dig deep and have one final fight against death. Dylan Thomas has a view toward death as an enemy that has to be fought in order to stay alive.</p>

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**Title and Author of Poem B:**

<p><b>Type of Poetic Language/Device:</b> <b>Text Evidence #1</b></p> <p>“Because I could not stop for Death-/ He kindly stopped for me-/ The Carriage held but Ourselves-/ And Immortality.”</p>	<p><b>Type of Poetic Language/Device:</b> <b>Text Evidence #2</b></p> <p>“Since then- ‘tis Centuries - and yet/ Feels shorter than the Day/ I first surmised the Horses’ Heads/ Were towards Eternity-“</p>
<p><b>Reasoning</b></p> <p>Emily Dickinson personifies death as a person driving a carriage towards death. She treats death very fondly and almost welcomes him. This means that she has accepted death and understands that she is headed towards immortality. This matters because people see death in different ways. Ms. Dickinson doesn't fear or hate death, she accepts him and goes peacefully. Emily Dickinson clearly has a unique idea of death, embracing him as a way to get to the next life, which is eternity or immortality.</p>	<p><b>Reasoning</b></p> <p>Emily Dickinson says towards the end of the poem that it has been a long time since she once left with death on the carriage into eternity. This means that she entered heaven, centuries ago, and began her life in eternity. This matters because many people have different ideas about death and Emily Dickinson clearly believes in either an after life or immortality as she remembers her death like it was yesterday. The poet is clearly very religious when it comes to death and truly embraces that there is something in the after life, either immortality or eternity, or both.</p>