**Subject:** Write briefly on what this poem is about.

**Paraphrase:** Rewrite each sentence in your own words.

**Occasion or Organization:** Discuss whichever is more relevant: the circumstances of the poem itself or the way the poet has organized the ideas or words on the page.

**Title:** Write one or two clear sentences discussing the significance of the title, if there is one.

**Tone:** Discuss how the speaker feels about the subject using three tone words.

**Theme:** Write one clear sentence that discusses what the speaker says about the subject.

**Speaker:** Discuss who is narrating the poem and the point of view.

**Strategies:** List three poetic devices you see in action; note which you would feel most comfortable analyzing.

**Why use SPOTTTSS?** For essay prompts that ask you to analyze poetry, the SPOTTTSS method works as a checklist to make sure your analysis is both complete and effective. Discovering the poem’s subject; simplifying its language; recognizing the occasion or organization; understanding the purpose of the title, tone, and theme; identifying the speaker; and classifying the poetic strategies will help you to recognize how all these elements work together to communicate the poem’s meaning. Informed by this poetic interconnection, your analysis will be more concise, more correct, and more profound.