

The Uncle Speaks in the drawing room by Adrienne Rich



Pre-Reading: Challenging Vocabulary



Sullen

Explore each word by finding the :
Definition
Synonyms
Use in a sentence
Then write a short paragraph using all five words.



Grandsire



Aghast



Frailty



Follies



Pre-Reading Discussion: Class

- What is class?
- What classes exist in Ireland?
- How is Irish society divided?
- Who holds the most power?
- Who holds the least power?
- Draw a diagram of the hierarchy of society in Ireland

The Uncle Speaks in the Drawing Room

I have seen the mob of late
Standing sullen in the square,
Gazing with a sullen stare
At window, balcony and gate.
Some have talked in bitter tones,
Some have held and fingered stones.

These are follies that subside.
Let us consider, none the less,
Certain frailties of glass
Which, it cannot be denied,
Lead in times like these to fear
For crystal vase and chandelier.

Not that the missiles will be cast;
None as yet dare lift an arm.
But the scene recalls a storm
When our grandsire stood aghast
To see his antique ruby bowl
Shivered in a thunder-roll.

Let us only bear in mind
How these treasures handed down
From a calmer age passed on
Are in the keeping of our kind.
We stand between the dead glass-blowers
And murmurings of missile throwers.

Comprehending the poem

1. Summarise the action of this poem in one sentence
2. List all of the words that describe the mob

Adjectives to describe the mob	Verbs to describe the actions of the mob

3. List all of the valuable possessions in The Uncles house
4. What do they suggest about The Uncle?
5. Are there any other clues in the poem that reveal things about the Uncle?
6. What tone is the Uncle speaking in?

Quote Quest: Inference Skills

Find a quote that suggests:	Quote
The Uncle has no respect for the mob	
The Uncle lives in a large house	
The Uncle cares more about possessions than people	
The mob has tried to rebel before	
The Uncles sees himself as separate and apart from those in the mob	
The Uncle values the idea of inheritance	

Find the Techniques: Annotation Skills

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Symbolism

Metaphor

Arrogant tone

Onomatopoeia

Alliteration

Focus on Structure, Rhythm and Rhyme

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What do you notice about
the Structure , Rhythm &
Rhyme of this poem?

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None as yet dare lift an arm.
But the scene recalls a storm
When our grandsire stood aghast
To see his antique ruby bowl
Shivered in a thunder-roll.

Let us only bear in mind
How these treasures handed down
From a calmer age passed on
Are in the keeping of our kind.
We stand between the dead glass-blowers
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What is the structure,
rhythm and rhyme symbolic
of ?

Discussion: The Big Ideas of the Poem
What is the poem saying about.....

Inheritance	Privilege	Protest

Writing to Analyse

*Write a short paragraph using an **analytical verb** to discuss the big ideas of the poem*

Adrienne Rich may have written the poem **to criticise**.....

Adrienne Rich may have written the poem **to warn**.....

Adrienne Rich may have written the poem **to reveal the importance of**.....

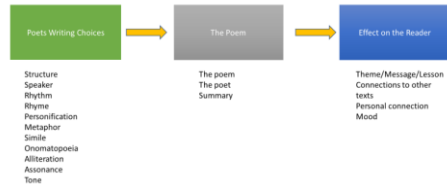
Linking and Connecting

Can you connect this poem to any other text you have studied in any other way?

What mood is the reader left in after reading the poem?

Outrage	Sympathy	Pity	Critical
Approval	Satisfaction	Empathy	Anger
Anxiety	Disappointed	Thrilled	Uncomfortable
Negative	Unpleasant	Concern	Horrificed
Respect	Admiration	Guilt	Irritation
Shocked	Distressed	Disgusted	Challenged
Justice	Injustice	Celebratory	Worried

How to Create Poetry Notes



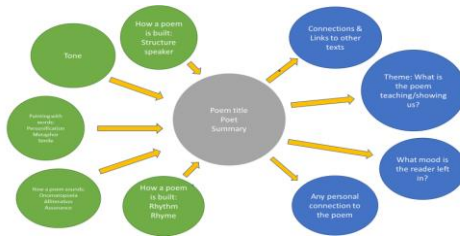
1. Purpose

- Why are you making the notes?
- Poets writing choices impact the poem which in turn impact the reader



2. Summarise

- Cut the information down to only the most essential bits- key words, key quotes, key techniques



3. Organise

- Organise your notes with your purpose in mind
- Poets writing choices impact the poem which in turn impact the reader



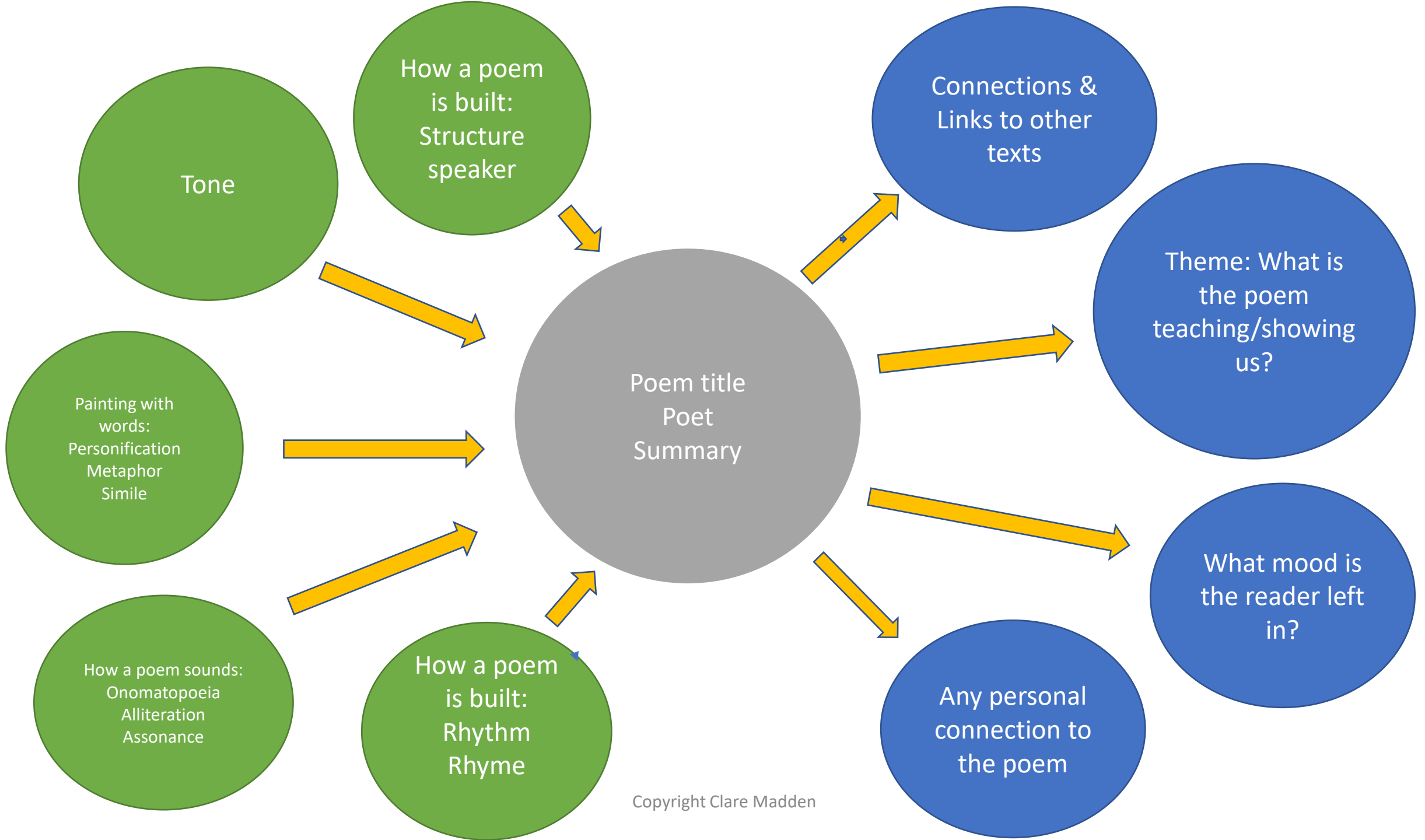
4. Layout

- Use a grid in the background to help with layout
- Use pencil for initial layout

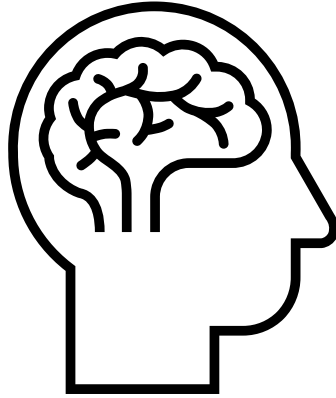


5. Create

- Use marker and colour
- Use bullets, banners, connectors, containers and fonts
- Use the noun project.com or flaticons.com to help with images or create your own



Retrieval Practice



Brain Dump: Write down everything you know about this poem