Author       Poem Title       Reviewer       Workshop Date

Make suggestions to the author about all of the following. You might suggest poems that the author should look at for certain ideas (openings, organization, etc.) Give this form to authors when they come up for workshop, and give another copy to me. Use the same template for online workshops.

1. What is this poem about? What happens in it? Paraphrase it below (do not do a one-line summary). When you are not sure, take a guess or multiple guesses.

1. How would you characterize the speaker? Is the speaker a character or is it omniscient? Is there a “you” in the poem and, if so, who is it? Does the poem have a recognizable form or is it free verse? Describe formal or sonic elements you notice (line length, rhythm, stanza or strophe length, rhyme, repetition, consonance, assonance, etc.).

1. Talk about a vivid image (a sensory evocation that “presents intellectual and emotional complex in an instant of time”) or metaphor that works for you. Explain the metaphor or image and how it appeals to your intellect, your senses, and / or your emotions.

1. How many of the lines are end-stopped and how many are enjambed? Give one or two examples of how changing the relationship between punctuation and line-ending might affect the poem.

1. What would make this poem clearer? What words could be more vivid? Find an example of nouns or verbs that could be replaced with more interesting or surprising words from other contexts.

1. What is the relationship of the title to the poem? Does it summarize the poem or interpret the poem for the reader? Does it give away the ending or the emotional impact? A good title adds a surprising new level to a poem. Suggest a different title or steal a title from another source that might work here.
2. Other suggestions for revision?