WRITING A POEM REVIEW

A poem review is your take on a poem with an evaluative eye as well as explanations of what this poem is really about. Below are some questions taken from <http://www.iluenglish.com/how-to-review-a-poem. Use these questions as your raw materials and mold a review by turning the relevant answers into paragraphs. Choose a relevant title.

 What is the poem about? OR What is the theme of the poem?

* Who is the speaker?
* Who is the poem addressed to?
* What is the tone of speaking?
* Does the poem belong to any particular category? (Ode, sonnet, ballad, dramatic monologue, lyric, confessional, modern, post-modern, etc.)
* What is the mood of the poem? (Happy, sad)
* How does the poem begin? (Most poems begin either with a description of something or a statement)
* How does the poem proceed? (When writing, include a short summary of the poem.)
* Does the initial mood change? Why?
* How does the poem end?
* What is the philosophy of life expressed in the poem? (Optimistic, pessimistic, religious, pantheistic, mystical, cynical, etc.)
* Are there any autobiographical elements in the poem?
* Has the poet used any figures of speech? Are they apt and suitable to the situation? How do they enhance the meaning? (One great quality of good poets is to find similarity in quite dissimilar things.)
* Are there things like a rhyme scheme, alliteration, assonance, etc.? Do they add to the charm of the poem?
* Has the poem got any contemporary significance? Is the theme universal?
* Does the poem remind you of any other poem? What are the similarities and differences?
* What feeling has the poem created in you? Is it touching, for example?