

Poem by Poem by Juan Felipe Herrera

Introduction: Writers - and specifically poets - have a wide range of literary tools at their disposal when crafting a work. Each of these tools serve in their own distinct way to help enhance meaning and contribute to the meaning of the work as a whole.

Some of these stylistic choices include (but are not limited to):

- Caesura
- Enjambment
- Use of italics
- Capitalization
- Line breaks
- Punctuation
- etc.

Today we are going to explore how these stylistic tools can be utilized to create meaning.

Directions: Follow the steps provided below:

1. Open [Timelinely](#), the program that we will be using to create your annotations and notes.
2. When you open the site, it will ask you to provide a YouTube URL. Paste the link to the performance of the poem, which is provided below:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SmMH1OBKfE>
3. Go through the little tutorial in the program before you get started.
4. Watch the following [performance](#) of “Poem by Poem,” as performed by Juan Felipe Herrera. The poem was written to honor those killed in the “Charleston Church Massacre” in 2015. While watching the performance of the poem, try to visualize how the words would translate on the written page and what kind of stylistic tools the poet may use to reiterate, reinforce, or convey his point in the most effective way possible. Think of the poem’s spacing, line breaks, use of enjambment, caesuras, etc.

Provided below is a bit of context behind the Charleston Church Massacre:

- *The Charleston church shooting (also known as the Charleston church massacre) was a mass shooting on June 17, 2015, in Charleston, South Carolina, in which nine African Americans were killed during a Bible study at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Among those people who were killed was the senior pastor, state senator Clementa C. Pinckney; three victims survived. This church is one of the oldest black churches in the United States, and it has long been a center for organizing events which are related to civil rights. At the time, this was one of the two deadliest mass shootings at an American place of worship, the other being a 1991 attack at a Buddhist temple in Waddell, Arizona.*

5. Go through the poem again, this time making “annotations” or “notes” to specific parts of the poem which, in your opinion, can be reinforced on the written page through one of the poet’s arsenal of poetic/stylistic elements or techniques, e.g. italics, line breaks, caesura, etc.

Here are the parameters of the assignment:

- Each of your annotations/notes need to consist of at least three well-developed sentences that articulate why your stylistic choice (line break, capitalization, etc.) would help enhance the meaning, message, or effect of the poem
 - You need to have at least 5 different annotations/notes.
6. When you are done, click “Publish,” sign up with a Google account (if needed), and copy/paste the link to your annotated version of the video in the space provided below.

Insert Link to Video Below: