

Handout 9.C. Developing Summaries of Poems**The Definition**

Components of a strong summary of a poem

- Brief explanation of the topic, action, or subject of the poem, indicating your take on the possible antecedent scenario and key aspects of the rhetorical situation or SOAPSTone.
- The name of the poem.
- The complete name of the author. You can shorten it to just the LAST name later in your discussion. Never call the author by his or her first name.
- A summary of a brief poem is often limited to a sentence or two.

Example:

In Sir Thomas Wyatt's "They Flee from Me," the speaker recounts his romantic exploits, focusing on one woman in particular who had a deep impact on him.

A summary may be more or less elaborate than this one, but this example represents the basic components that ought to be present.

Your Task

Write a brief summary of the poem. Use the SOAPSTone below to think through your summary before composing a sentence or two.

Author

Title

Speaker?

Occasion?

Audience?

Purpose?

Subject?

Tone

After thinking through pertinent details, compose a summary of your chosen poem and record it on a separate sheet of paper.