

Reading Skill

MAKE INFERENCES

When you read poetry, you usually need to **make inferences** to determine its meaning. An inference, or logical assumption, should be based on information in the text as well as your own knowledge and experience.

**Directions:** The two poems explore the advantages and disadvantages of youth and aging. Use the charts to record the inferences you make about these topics. Also, note text references that allowed you to make each inference. An example has been done for you.

“To an Athlete Dying Young”

| Advantages  | Disadvantages |
|---|---------------|
| <b>Youth:</b><br><br><i>When you’re young, you’re often in good physical condition, like the triumphant athlete described in lines 1–4.</i> | <b>Youth:</b> |
| <b>Aging:</b>   | <b>Aging:</b> |

“When I Was One-and-Twenty”

| Advantages    | Disadvantages |
|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Youth:</b> | <b>Youth:</b> |
| <b>Aging:</b> | <b>Aging:</b> |

TO AN ATHLETE DYING YOUNG /  
WHEN I WAS ONE-AND-TWENTY