

Reading Skill

ANALYZE SPEAKER

The **speaker** of a poem is the voice that “talks” to the reader. In some poems, the speaker can be identified with the poet. In other poems, the speaker is an invented **persona**, or character. Like a narrator in a short story, a speaker also has a point of view. Some speakers are distant observers. They are like third-person narrators. Other speakers are directly involved in the experience being described. They are like first-person narrators. They use the pronoun *I* and express personal feelings.

Directions: Complete each diagram to analyze the speakers in the first two poems. Write down the title of the poem at the top of the diagram, then note emotions that the speaker reveals as well as clues that help you make inferences about the speaker. Finally, describe the speakers’s identity. If you cannot infer the speaker’s identity or emotions, write “unknown” on the appropriate line. On the back of this sheet, create and complete diagrams for the last two poems.

Poem: _____

Speaker’s Emotions	Clues

Speaker’s Identity: _____

Poem: _____

Speaker’s Emotions	Clues

Speaker’s Identity: _____