

Reading Skill

INTERPRET IDEAS IN POETRY

The dense language of poetry often requires more than one reading. Use these steps to interpret **ideas** in poetry:

- During a first reading, divide the work into sections and summarize the main ideas. Make sure you understand the literal level of the poem. What happens? To whom?
- Use a second reading to take a larger view of the poem. Think about the larger, metaphorical meanings. Notice how the main ideas link together to suggest something general about human life. Pay special attention to repeated words and words with two meanings.

Directions: Complete each chart to interpret ideas in these poems.

| "The Frog Prince" | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Lines | Ideas on 1st Reading (Literal) | Ideas on 2nd Reading (Metaphorical) |
| 1–9 | | |
| 10–29 | | |
| 30–42 | | |
| 43–48 | | |

| "Not Waving but Drowning" | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Lines | Ideas on 1st Reading (Literal) | Ideas on 2nd Reading (Metaphorical) |
| 1–4 | | |
| 5–8 | | |
| 9–12 | | |