

Reading Strategy

READING MODERN VERSE

Use these strategies to understand complex modern poetry:

- Read the poem aloud. Pause to reflect on striking images.
- When you find a line confusing, try to restate it in other words.
- Be sure to read sidenotes. They can explain unfamiliar words and allusions.
- Compare and contrast imagery within the poem. Note the key central images in each section of the poem.

Directions: Use these charts to note the most important image or idea in each stanza. Use the back of the page to continue the chart for “The Hollow Men” to include stanzas 7–17.

“Preludes”

Stanza	Central Image or Idea
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

“The Hollow Men”

Stanza	Central Image or Idea
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	