Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**“The Lady of Shalott”**

**-- by Alfred, Lord Tennyson**

Follow the steps below to analyze the “little details” to discover and interpret a “BIG PICTURE” about the poem.

**Step One**

* Read through the poem one time – just get a feel for it.
* Paraphrase (explain in your own words) & summarize the “plot” or the main ideas of the poem.

**Summarize the plot of “The Lady of Shalott”** – Who are the main characters? What happens to them?

**Step Two**

* List any words or phrases that are repeated or that stand out;
* Note any images that create a particular mood or feeling;
* Note any moods or feelings that are created throughout the poem and where they change.
* Identify if there is a specific rhyme scheme and/or regular meter or rhythm to the lines of the poem.

**Repeated words or phrases:**

**Strong Images:**

**Moods or Feelings:**

**Rhyme Scheme & Meter:**

**Step Three**

* Analyze the poem more carefully for **the purpose** of specific word choices, literary techniques, figurative language, and other patterns that could emphasize the theme statement. Make sure that you can connect HOW the author wrote the poem to WHAT he/she wrote about.

*(The following boxes give examples of techniques that Tennyson used in “The Lady of Shalott.” Make sure that you pay special attention to the “****ANALYZE****” questions in each box. Then add any of your own ideas.)*

**Opposites** – Write down examples of opposites from the poem. Look for subtle, as well as obvious examples. **ANALYZE:** What purpose do you think these opposites serve? What do they emphasize?

**Images of Brightness** – Write down images of brightness from the poem. Where are they emphasized? **ANALYZE:** What is the purpose of these images? What feelings do they invoke? What images of darkness are mixed in with the images of brightness? What effect does the mixture create?

**Repetition** – Write down examples of repetition (rhyme, alliteration, word choice, *etc.*). **ANALYZE:** What is the effect of the repetition? What purpose does it have? Is the pattern of repetition ever broken? Why?

**Mood** – How is the mood created? Does it change during the poem? How? When? **ANALYZE:** Why does the mood change when it does? What effect does that have on the story? On the meaning or theme of the poem?

**Step Four**

* Create a theme statement based on what you understand about the poem. (A theme statement is an explanation of what the piece communicates to the reader about being human.) This is the BIG PICTURE.

**Theme Statement** – What does Tennyson communicate in this poem about the human experience?

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