

DESIDERATA

<p>Step 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Desiderata” is latin, meaning something that is needed or wanted - a possible interpretation to title: poem is about the desires of the speaker - the first and last line link because they both tell you to be happy and cheerful even if there is negativity around you 	<p>Step 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the poet is speaking to the reader in the poem, using “your” and “you” - tone of voice imagined when reading this poem: positive, soothing, peaceful, cheerful 	<p>Step 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - didactic - poet is giving advice to the reader → be the best you can be, focus on yourself → always be positive and enjoy your life and the things/people in it → “with all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it's still a beautiful world.” 	<p>Step 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Every stanza begins with a verb telling the reader to do something → “Avoid” and “speak” and “take” - The words “you” and “your” are repeated throughout → direct address
<p>Step 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - simile: “as perennial as the grass” meaning it lasts a long time - personification: “many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness” meaning from one bad thing comes another - 	<p>Step 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - written in prose, didactic, free verse - Lines are end-stopped - some are very short, eg. “be yourself” → poet wants reader to stop + reflect on what they read and take it into consideration - each stanza has 1 or 2 lines except the last one → perhaps poet is summarizing his advice from the stanzas above OR the most important advice he has to offer is placed in the last stanza, for reader to remember 	<p>Step 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 short stanzas (1-2 lines except the last stanza which has 5) - different line lengths 	<p>Step 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This poem suggests that the reader enjoys life and appreciates everything in it - be aware, be yourself, avoid negative people, speak your truth - the voice of the poem supports this message because it's positive and cheerful