S I F T Method of Analysis

Those Winter Sundays	S ymbol
Robert Hayden	
Sundays too my father got up early	Examine the title and text for symbolism
And put his clothes on in the blueblack cold,	I mages
Then with cracked hands that ached	
From labor in the weekday weather made	
Banked fires blaze. No one ever thanked him.	Identify images and sensory detail
I'd wake up and hear the cold splintering,	F igurative Language
breaking,	
When the room were warm, he'd call,	
And slowly I would rise and dress,	Analyze figurative lang. & other devices
Fearing the chronic angers of that house.	T opic
Speaking indifferently to him,	heme one
Who had driven out the cold	
And polished my good shoes as well.	
What did I know, what did I know	
Of love's austere and lonely offices?	
	Discuss how all devices reveal the 3 Ts
Thesis Statement = Topic + Theme + Tone	
In the	by ,
(genre) (title)	(author)
(topic) + (theme) + (tone).	

A Brief THEME Idea List

Theme is what a piece of literature is about when you do not mention plot.

LOVE DEATH NATURE WAR GROWING UP GROWING OLD

RELIGION COURAGE HOPE INSPIRATION SELF-REFLECTION

The important part to remember in discerning theme is to identify the comment the author is making about that theme

A Brief TONE List

A Strong Vocabulary Helps Articulate a Precise Analysis: Many Works Have 2 Contrasting Tones

Cynical cheerful nostalgic apologetic Sarcastic whimsical ironic agitated Condescending light-hearted vibrant ecstatic Soothing reflective loving enthusiastic Desperate remorseful scornful haughty Melancholic inquisitive consoling wistful Calm authoritative disinterested humorous

A Brief SYMBOLS List

Common meanings of Universal Symbols (emphasis Western Hemisphere)

COLORS NATURE

Red: passion/anger/danger Black: void/evil/death

Whte: purity/ innocence

Blue: spirit/self

SEASONS/DAY

Spring (morning): rebirth/childhood Fall (evening): ripeness/passing/aging Winter (night): death/old/frigidness Summer (day): strength/prime

WEATHER

Rain/sleet: too much knowledge Snow: frigid/unbending/death Fresh snow: cleansing/at peace

Sunshine: knowledge/truth

Wind: change

woods/forest/jungle: mystery/untamed/uncivilized

mountain: external god/conscious self ocean: internal god/unconscious self

river/road: spiritual journey

Tree: knowledge/metaphor for Man/Life

MISC OBJECTS

eye: window to the soul/intellect

hands: physicality/action blindness: internal wisdom

Fire: spark of Life

wound/scar: experience/medal of honor

wall: blockage

door: threshold/life transition

window: ability to see change but unable to attain castle/house: security/protection/familial bonds