**How to Handle Unseen Poems (Question and Model Answer)**

**Read the following poem and respond to task:**

**The Sick Rose**

By [William Blake](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/william-blake)

O Rose thou art sick.
The invisible worm,
That flies in the night
In the howling storm:
Has found out thy bed
Of crimson joy:
And his dark secret love
Does thy life destroy.

**How does “The Sick Rose” and “Design” use imagery and symbolism to suggest the theme of good versus evil?**

**Good tip: Think of the question and give yourself time to make sure you understand it then create an outline of how you are planning to answer the question.**

**The following is a rough outline for such a question: (I outline rather than write you an essay, since the answers may vary and, as I made it clear in many occasions, that there is no one definite answers for literature-related questions)**

**Introduction:**

* A general statement (i.e. an attention grabber) about good and evil/ or poetry and its effect/ or the effect of poetry/ or imagery in poetry. **HOOK**
* A statement that gives the title and the poet’s name of the first poem along with a very short, and concise, summary. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**
* A statement that gives the title and the poet’s name of the second poem along with a very short, and concise, summary. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**
* **A thesis statement where the two poems are mentioned and the purpose of the essay is made clear**. **THESIS STATEMENT**

Possible formulas of a thesis statement:

Although poem A and poem B are [fill in difference], they both share [fill in similarities that relate to the question. In this case, the imagery and the theme]

**OR**

Although poem A and poem B are [fill in similarity], they differ in terms of [fill in differences that relate to the question].

**Body Paragraphs:**

* First paragraph:

You can here discuss the first poem you mention in the thesis, focusing on the elements, i.e. imagery and theme, you explicitly refer to in the thesis. As you do so, you must refer to the lines in poem in what proves the point you are making. You can do so by asking yourself the following questions: What kind of images are given in the poem? What do these images present? What is the theme of the poem? How do these images connect to the theme?

* Second paragraph:

You can here discuss the second poem you mention in the thesis, focusing on the elements, i.e. imagery and theme, you explicitly refer to in the thesis. **While doing so, you have to make reference to the previously analyzed poem, so it would not seem as though you are dealing with these two poems separately.** You need to quote from the poems and comment on the quotes. Your analysis is extremely important as you should not write a quote and not comment on it.

**Conclusion:**

* A rephrasing of the thesis statement
* A recap of what was mentioned so far, only so you can connect it to the thesis
* A final comment: just as you grab your reader’s attention at the beginning of the paragraphs, you have to try and do so at the end of your essay as well. Here, you can include your opinion on the poems.

**Remember: Use present tense when analyzing literature, write using correct grammar, avoid over-summarizing, and always give yourself enough time to edit and revise.**