

**TP CASTT**

Read and analyze the poem “Requiem for a Nest” using the chart below.

	Description	
<b>Title</b>	Consider the title and make a prediction about what the poem is about.	A requiem is a religious service or a piece of music that honors the dead. Different animals live in nests. Birds live in nests. A poet would write a requiem for a nest in order to honor it. If a requiem honors the dead, this poem is probably about something bad happening to a nest.
<b>Paraphrase</b>	Put the poem into your own words. Make sure you tell what is happening at the beginning, middle, and end. Tell what is really happening, not what the poet is figuratively saying.	A bird built her nest on the branches of a sheltering tree. The bird didn’t realize that she was building her nest in a dangerous place. The tree looked safe but it was in a polluted and unsafe neighborhood. The bird did what she should naturally do and she created her nest. She didn't realize that her babies were doomed and they would probably not survive.
<b>Connotation</b>	Look at the poem beyond the actual events. Look for figurative language, imagery, etc.	Positive words or phrases may include: <i>dream palace, fine green eyes, sheltering bough, serenely, flitted and dove, humming blue</i> . Negative words or phrases may include: <i>disguised, doom, rife, slant-mawed felines, long-taloned swoopers of prey, ignorant, acidity and oil, polluted, coiled, delusionally rational</i> . The positive words are associated with the bird while the negative words are associated with man’s progress and lack of conservation.
<b>Attitude (Tone)</b>	What is the speaker’s tone? Is there more than one attitude or tone in different parts of the poem?	The author feels that the bird is unknowing. The bird is doing what she should naturally do, but she is completely unaware of the dangers progress and society present. Words like <i>dream palace, fine green eyes, sheltering bough, serenely, flitted and dove, humming blue</i> describe the bird as a peaceful creature, building her nest as she naturally should for her spawn. She is unsuspecting. By contrasting

		the negative connotation words with the positive connotation words, the reader can sense that the poet feels pity for the bird because she is unaware of her family's fate.
<b>Shifts</b>	Are there any changes in the speaker or attitude? Look for key words, time change, punctuation.	The author creates contrast between safety/danger. The words in yellow describe the bird and her peaceful nature. She is trying to find a safe place for her family. The words in blue describe mankind's progress and how it slowly sneaks up on the unknowing bird.
<b>Title</b>	Look at the title again. Why is the title important to the poem?	Because of the dangers around the nest, the reader knows that the baby birds will not survive. The title of the poem is important because a requiem honors someone or something that is dead. The title lets the reader know the fate of the nest and the baby birds.
<b>Theme</b>	What is the theme about? What is the poet saying about the subject? What message is the poet trying to send?	The dangers of progress may not be obvious and may sometimes be hidden. When progress is not monitored and nature is not conserved, progress will slowly destroy nature and its resources.