

TP-CASTT Poetry Analysis

T	Title: Before reading the poem, make a prediction about what the poem is about based on the title.
	A mother talking to her son
P	Paraphrase: Translate the poem line by line into your own words. Look for complete thoughts and look up unfamiliar words.
	She is telling her son that life has been very hard but that has stopped her. She keeps moving on and going forward despite the hard things that have happened in her life.
C	Connotation: What words or phrases stick out to you? Look for patterns and figurative language, imagery, and sound elements.
	At one point she uses an entire line to simply say, "bare". This sticks out as very important because it shows that she didn't have anything. That her life was not pretty like a crystal stair but broken and bare.
A	Attitude/Tone: Notice the speaker's attitude toward the subject of the poem. This is the author's tone.
	It seems very hopeful. The speaker seems to be proud that she has made it through the trials and tribulations of her life and hopeful for her son in the future.
S	Shifts: As you look for patterns, also look for contrasts or shifts/changes in poem. Look for changes in language, attitude, setting/imagery, mood, punctuation, other literary devices.
	There is a clear distinction in the section where the speaker says, "It's had tacks in it, And splinters, And boards torn up, And places with no carpet on the floor—Bare. But all the time, I've been a-climbin' on, and reachin' landin's, And turnin' corners" This is a clear shift in the poem from a description of her life to what she's done with it.
T	Title: Examine the title again. What does it mean now that you've read the poem? Did the meaning of the title change?
	It is a mother giving advice to her son about the future. She is using her life as an example to her son.
T	Theme: State what the poem is about (subject) and what the poet is trying to say about subject (theme).
	The theme is life isn't always easy but you need to continue to push forward.