ENGLISH · YEAR 8

READ · THINK · RESPOND

# Poetry Analysis and Interpretation Worksheet

**Name** _____ **Date** _____

Read the poem carefully. Then answer each question, using details from the poem to support your ideas.

## READ THE POEM

### Small Lights

At six, the street is washed in slate,
and gutters whisper at the gate.
A paper boat, one folded wing,
drifts past the shuttered greengrocer's.

Windows hold their squares of gold;
inside, a kettle starts to sing.
An old man tilts his umbrella wide
to shelter someone hurrying.

By morning, every roof shines bright;
the puddles keep the sky in sight.
No grand parade, no trumpet sound—
just small lights passed from hand to hand.

## Explore the poem

Write in full sentences where appropriate.

1. In “gutters whisper” (line 2), identify the language feature. What does it make the street seem like?

2. Choose one image from the poem. What can you picture, hear or feel, and what effect does it create?

3. How does the tone shift between the opening and the final stanza? Support your idea with a word or phrase from each.

4. What might the paper boat (line 3) or the puddles (line 10) suggest beyond their literal meaning? Explain one interpretation.

5. What do you think the poet wants readers to understand about small acts of kindness? Use the umbrella moment and the final line as evidence.

Final check: have you supported your ideas with words or details from the poem?