**The SMILER approach to poetry – *comparative***

***Remember NOT to lose sight of the main area of focus in the question!***

1. **Subject**

* Who is the narrator (the poet, fictional first person, third person)?
* Are there other characters in the poem?
* Is there a distinctive setting or sense of place?
* Does the poem tell a story?
* Is there a message, moral or conclusion?

Begin with the obvious thing that links the two poems, and use comparative phrases to work through the other bullet points. End with any subtle differences between overall messages / morals.

1. **Movement of Ideas**

* Is the poem divided into stanzas?
* Are the stanzas regular or irregular?
* Can you see why stanzas are ordered as they are?
* Is the layout of the poem important to its meaning?

(linking word into this section) Begin with an overall comparison of form – stanzas / rhyme scheme etc, and why they have been chosen in each case. Point out how each is structured / ordered, then make subtle comparisons between each to end this section.

1. **Imagery**

* Metaphors
* Similes
* Symbols
* Personification
* Are there any links between the images used?

(linking word into this section) Make an overall statement as to what common element links many of the images in the first poem, then go onto say something similar about the second. Remember to include some evaluative vocabulary such as ‘powerful’, ‘vivid’, ‘harrowing’. Pick out particularly striking images, using the correct terminology (metaphors/ similes, etc) and their effects on the reader. Note any striking similarities or differences between the imagery of both poems…

1. **Language**

* Alliteration
* Assonance
* Sibilance
* Onomatopoeia
* Enjambment
* Repetition
* Rhyme
* Rhythm

(linking word into this section) Make an overall statement as to the overall tone of the language of the first poem, then go on to do the same for the second. Pick out particular words and phrases, commenting on the effect of techniques or particular parts of speech (eg. verbs , adjectives) . Again, include some evaluative vocabulary and note any striking similarities or differences overall…

1. **Emotion**

* Are feelings expressed explicitly in the poem? If so, how?
* If feelings are not expressed explicitly, how are they communicated?
* How does the language of the poem and its imagery contribute to the expression of feelings?

(linking word into this section) Guide your reader through the range of emotions in the first poem, singling out the words and phrases that tell the reader this, then do similar for the second. Bring them together in a comparative statement about emotions of the poet / narrator / characters.

1. **Response**

* What do you like about the poem?
* Can you identify with the feelings expressed?
* Which line, phrase or image do you find most powerful or effective in the poem?
* If there are parts of the poem that you find difficult, can you think of alternative interpretations?
* How would you describe the effect of the poem? Is it powerful, moving, provocative, disturbing, entertaining?

(linking word into this section – avoid ‘in conclusion’!) State what you find effective about each poem, and what stands out for you in each? Point out where you reaction differs between the poem, and then come up with a summative evaluative statement about the two together.