

## Basic Poetry Paragraph Response Writing

When writing a response to a question on literature, there are some basic rules that should be used in conjunction with the basic paragraph structure. Remember in all your writing to follow the rules of grammar, spelling, mechanics, and the new rules for editing.

Discuss the poet's use of \_\_\_\_\_ with reference to the poem \_\_\_\_\_.

<p><b>Topic Sentence(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The first sentence (can be more than one depending on usage and writer's abilities)</li><li>• The most general sentence</li><li>• Grabs the reader's attention</li><li>• Demonstrates a sense of depth, theme, message, and understanding of the writer of the topic.</li></ul>	
<p><b>Supporting Sentences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• These sentences answer the question that is in the reader's mind</li><li>• Reference to the literary work is made directly (quotes) and indirectly (paraphrasing)</li><li>• Should be enough support to answer the question fully (8 – 12 sentences is typical in a good paragraph)</li><li>• Provides a clear explanation</li></ul>	
<p><b>Concluding Sentence(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Summarizes the information presented</li><li>• Similar to a topic in reverse</li><li>• More than an ending, this sentence demonstrates understanding and a realization of something important</li></ul>	

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Discuss the poet's use of allusion with reference to the poem "Siren Song" by Margaret Atwood.

	<b>C- to C Range</b>	<b>C+ to B Range</b>	<b>A Range</b>
<b>Topic Sentence(s)</b>	In "Siren Song" by Margaret Atwood there are several examples of allusion.	Poets often use the poetic device allusion to improve the depth of a poem. In her poem "Siren Song", Margaret Atwood uses references to mythology and history to create connections for the reader.	When a poet decides to make use of allusion, she enhances the ability for the reader to connect with the characters and the theme of her poem. Margaret Atwood does this in her poem "Siren Song" as the reader comes to feel the sorrow of the narrator and her tragic enslavement to her own nature.
<b>Supporting Sentences</b>	In lines 2-3 Atwood writes about a siren who sings a song that is "irresistible" and "forces men" to their deaths (3, 4). The men die even though they can "see the beached skulls" (6). This is an allusion to men dying during an invasion during D-Day.	The siren of mythology was an ancient creature with feathers that sang a song. Men who heard the song were lured to their deaths on the rocks around an island. The siren narrator says "the song / that is irresistible" (2-3) and that it "forces men to leap overboard in squadrons" (5). This reference to soldiers going to their deaths during an invasion also provides a depth an image for the reader.	As the mythical Siren sings "the song / that is irresistible" to men we are reminded of Homer's ancient Greek myth Ulysses (2-3) These birdlike creatures lured men to their deaths on the rocks as their "boring song...works every time" (26-27). Atwood furthers this magical call of the siren by alluding to soldiers an invasion; even though the men can "see the beached skulls," they still jump to their deaths (6)
<b>Concluding Sentence(s)</b>	By using allusion, Atwood has created a very good poem that makes connections for the reader.	By using allusion, Atwood creates a poem that makes the reader think of men going to their deaths lured onto the rocks by mythical creatures of the past.	By using these mythical and historical references, the woman of the poem is given a deep pathos; she cannot resist her own abilities and nature and is just as doomed as those she lures to their deaths.