

T4 Scout Answer Key

T1 **Title:** Students should think about the title. Is it symbolic? Does it references something else or give the reader a hint of what is to come? Revisit the title after reading the poem.

T2 **Topic:** Make a list of topics this covers. This should be broad and usually universal ideas (love, war, death, loss etc.).

T3 **Tone:** The writer's attitude toward the subject.

T4 **Theme:** Using one of the topics, develop a sentence that encompasses the theme of the poem. This should be universal and not too specific.

S**pecifics:** Look for common literary devices found in poetry: alliteration, imagery, personification, parallel structure, metaphor, simile etc. Consider the significance and role they play in the poem.

C**omparisons:** What does the poet compare or contrast and what is the significance?

O**rganization:** What is the structure of the poem? Is there a set form or rhyme scheme? What effect does that have on the poem? What person is the poem written in?

U**nusual:** Is there anything that jumps out as unusual in the poem?

T**heme Examples:** What is evidence from the text proves the theme?

T4 Scout Answer Key cont.

T1 Title: "In Flight"

T2 Topic: love of flying, honoring the joy and fulfillment found in flying, finding what fulfills a person can be a religious experience

T3 Tone: tone remains the same throughout--religious, appreciative, thankful "Heaven's prize," "free of care," "found space...to Heaven's gate"

T4 Theme: Finding what fulfills you can be a religious experience even in the midst of hard times (war).

Specifics: alliteration - "shared," "secrets," "soaring" = sound of a plane, Imagery- sunset's glow = peace, "Birth of stars & planets" = personification, "Speeding," "darting," "playing" = parallel structure, "Man's estate" = metaphor, "Heaven's gate" = allusion

Comparisons: man's insignificance compared to God's power, Heavenly vs. earthly, Man-made (plane) vs. nature, Man vs. heaven, Earth vs. sky

Organization: sonnet-- ABBA CDDC EFEF GG (usually a form used to express love and passion), First person "I seek"

Unusual: in the midst of war pilot has profound peace, Idealistic view of war? No indication or reference of resentment or cynicism

Theme Examples: "shared secrets known to airborne"; "Soared far beyond the hold of man-made bars" takes the author beyond the chains of daily life, "Transcended...path to heaven's gate"