

“A Lament for Confederation” Notes


Title:

Consider the title and make a prediction about what the speech is about. What do the words of the title suggest to you?



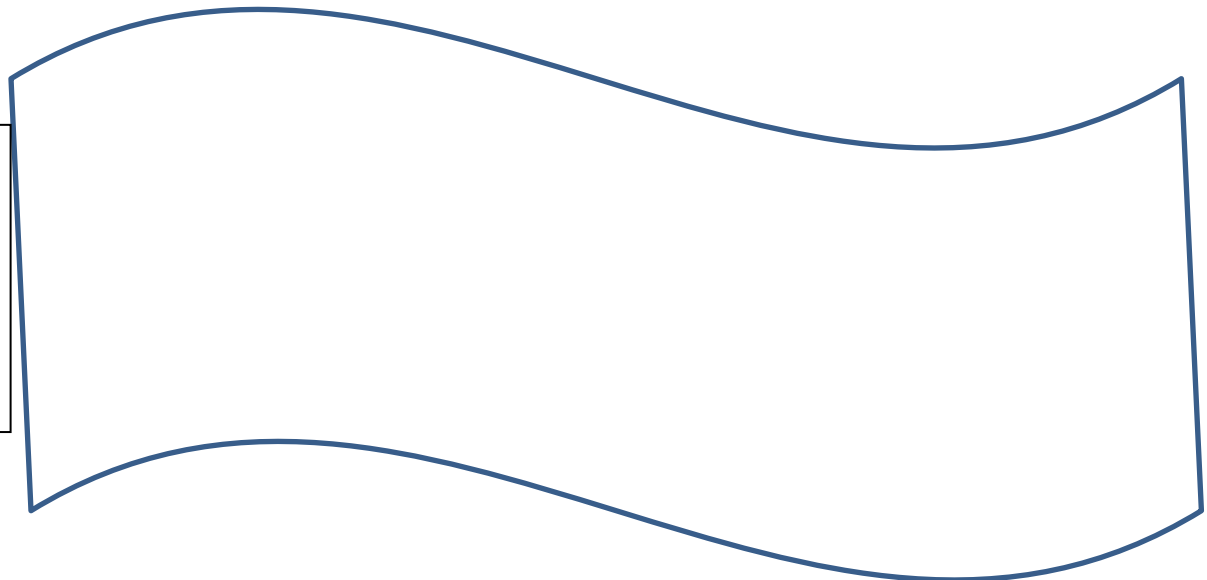
Connotation:

Consider imagery, figures of speech, diction, point of view, and sound devices focusing on how such devices contribute to the meaning or effect of the speech.



Attitude/Tone:

What is the subject of the speech? What is the speaker’s attitude toward that subject? Additionally, how does the speaker feel about himself/herself and about others?



Shifts:

Where do the shifts in tone, setting, voice, etc. occur? Look for time and place, keywords, punctuation, stanza divisions, changes in length of lines and/or stanzas, rhyme, and sentence structure. What is the purpose of each shift? How do they contribute to effect and meaning?

Title:

Examine the title again, this time on an interpretive level. Do you notice any new significance?

Theme:

What is the speech saying about the human experience, motivation, or condition? What idea does the speaker want the reader to understand about the subject?