

“The Cremation of Sam McGee” Notes

**Title:**

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



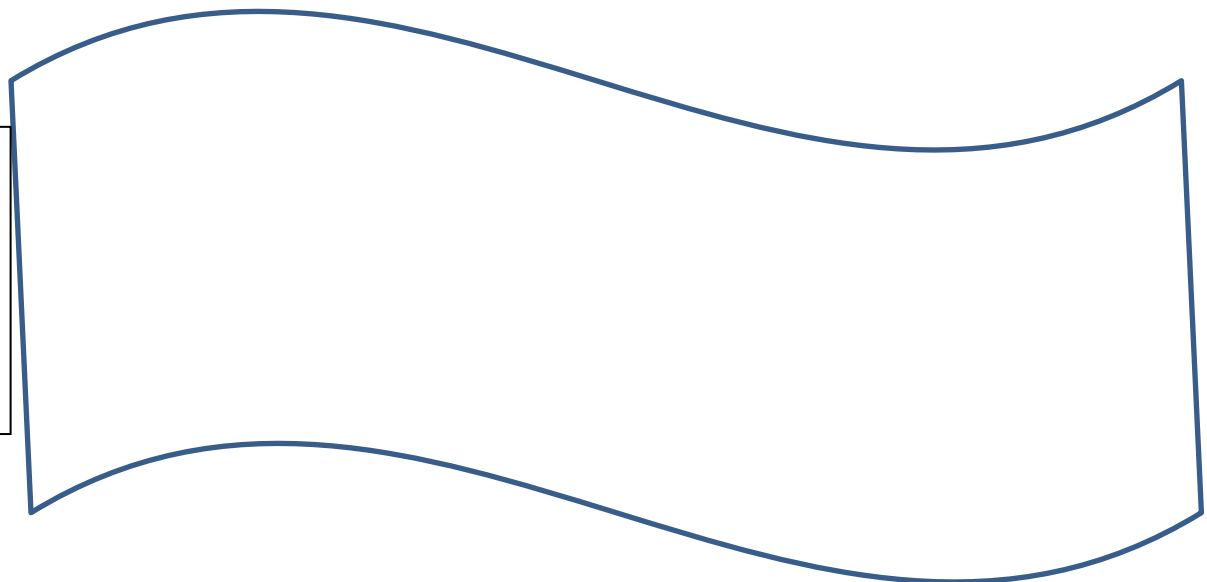
**Connotation:**

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 poem.



**Attitude/Tone:**

What is the subject of the poem? 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 poem saying about the human experience, motivation, or condition? What idea does the poet want the reader to understand about the subject?