

Charles Bernstein**Poem Profiler: Check Levels**

This is a list of rhetorical features of individual poems. Pick one poem and rate it for each of these characteristics. Rate the levels of these features on a one to ten scale with one the lowest level and ten the highest level. Be specific: give examples to support assessment. Compare two poems based on these features. Also: compare any group of poems based on their likeness/difference from one another. (NOTE: please provide additional parameters for the Profiler, which is in development.)

For definitions of many key poetics terms, go to [here](#) (Wheeler's Liteary Vocabulary) or [here](#) (classical rhetorical terms) or [here](#) (Representative Poetry Online glossary)

Stylistic Textures and Poetic Diction	Content	Mood/Tone
Coefficient of weirdness (wackiness quotient)	Political	[rate the first term only]
Ambiguity	Liberal/conservative/radical	Scary/reassuring
Ambivalence	Urban	Dark/light
Irreverence	Pastoral	Impersonal/emotional
Sobriety	Moral	Engaged /disaffected (alienated)
Humor	Sexual	Affirmative/skeptical/ hostile
Eloquence	Religious	Elegiac (mournful) / celebratory (panegyric)
Plainness	Spiritual	Hot/cold
Sincerity	Mystical	Angry/friendly
Smoothness (vs roughness, bumpiness, striation)	Philosophical	Cool/uncool
Neat (vs messy)	Love	Turbulent/calm
Pretentiousness	Family	Disturbed/content
Subtlety (vs bluntness)	Ethnic/racial	Reckless/cautious
Indirect (vs straightforward)	Nationalistic/patriotic	Happy/sad
Intelligence	Gender	Depressed/elated
Visual imagery	Mortality (death)	Bright/dull
Dreaminess	Illness	Meditative/unreflective
Particularity (vs generality) of details	Conflict (war)	Bubbly/sober
Stylistic consistency	Discontent	Elusive/explicit
Innovation	Developmental / Temporal / Compositional Structures (What holds the poem together?)	Erotic/dispassionate
Originality	Fragmentary / disjunctive / nonlinear / discontinuity [parataxis]	Mysterious/apparent
Ornamental/decorative	Logical/expository continuity (linear 1/ hypotaxis)	Counting:
Relevance	Narrative continuity (beginning, middle, and end) (linear 2 / hypotaxis)	Syllables per line
Tastefulness	Journey	Lines per stanza or for poem
Speech-like	Journal/diary	Stanzas
Dialect		Words per line
Sampling (use of found or quoted material)		Visual Shape/Form:
Comprehensibility		Flush left, justified/ragged prose, overall "field" design, etc.

Coherence	Stream of	
Spontaneity	consciousness/thought process	Sound
Exploratory	Dream-like/surreal	Dissonance/cacophony (noisy, harsh)
Density	Closure	Melodious/harmonious/mellifluous (“pleasing”)
Predictability	Symmetrical	Assonance
Abstractness	Fast paced	Alliteration
Sensuousness	Jerky	Rhyme
Wearyness	Kinetic (moves from one thing to another) vs. static (continuous present)	Off-rhyme
Timidity	Programmatic or procedural	Metrical patterns
Bravado	Received form (sonnet, ballad, etc.)	Obtrusive (vs not noticeable)
Courage		<u>for performances:</u>
Unusual vocabulary		accent
Complexity	Devices	tempo
Repetitiveness	Irony	voice timbre
Self-consciousness	Paradox	tone
Artifice (vs “natural”)	Exaggeration	intonation
Difficulty	Understatement	rhythm
Modern/contemporary (vs old fashioned)	Simile	amplitude/dynamic range
Referential Opacity / Transparency Ratio (outward/inward pointing)	Metaphor	
	Personification	Contexts
	Symbolism	Author’s date of birth/death
	Allegory	Date of poem’s composition
	Enjambment	Place of composition
Point of View	Metonymy	Relevant socio-historical facts
Direct POV of author as speaker (monologic / lyric)	Literary or historical allusion	Relevant biographical facts
Persona	Persona	Relevant ethnic, gender, national, sexual orientation
Narrator (epic)	Programmatic or procedural structure	Place/context of original publication and significant subsequent publication
Multiple POVs (dialogic or polyvocal)		Variant versions, including performances
Textual Subjectivity		Title: yes/no; if yes: use/connection to poem
n/a		

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