There are many ways to try and understand poetry. The complicated nature of poetry allows, and even requires, multiple approaches to be used. Picking out words and lines and scrutinizing them for meaning can achieve a clear understanding of what is being written. It also has the downside of not clearly seeing what it’s relevance is to the rest of the poem, and how it can effect other ideas as well as how other ideas in the poem can effect it. Condensed line analysis can be a powerful tool if the author has said something rather profound, and can also be a debilitating one if the author wishes to portray other, more complicated meanings using the passage within the rest of the poem. Looking at passages as a whole can show a reader relationships and thought patterns that give insight to the poet’s intent for whichever subject the poet is writing about. It is harder to see that a poem may be alluding to deeper ideas then what is written on the surface if much of the surface is not looked at. Analyzing passages is a great way to get a full picture, and a more intricate perspective on a subject. Reading poem’s through without any kind of analysis other then the experience of reading can also be an insightful way of understanding a poem. Poems are not always cryptic, nor are they always particularly understandable when analyzed. A poet may want the *experience* of the poem to take effect, instead of an analysis on the words themselves. Going back and looking at lines that made the reader feel a certain way can reinforce this kind of understanding. They may be explained traditionally because they are feelings of a reader, and therefor may not be able to be explained in any other way then “This line made me feel this way”. Approaching a poems from different places is key to getting the most from it.