

POETRY WORKSHEET

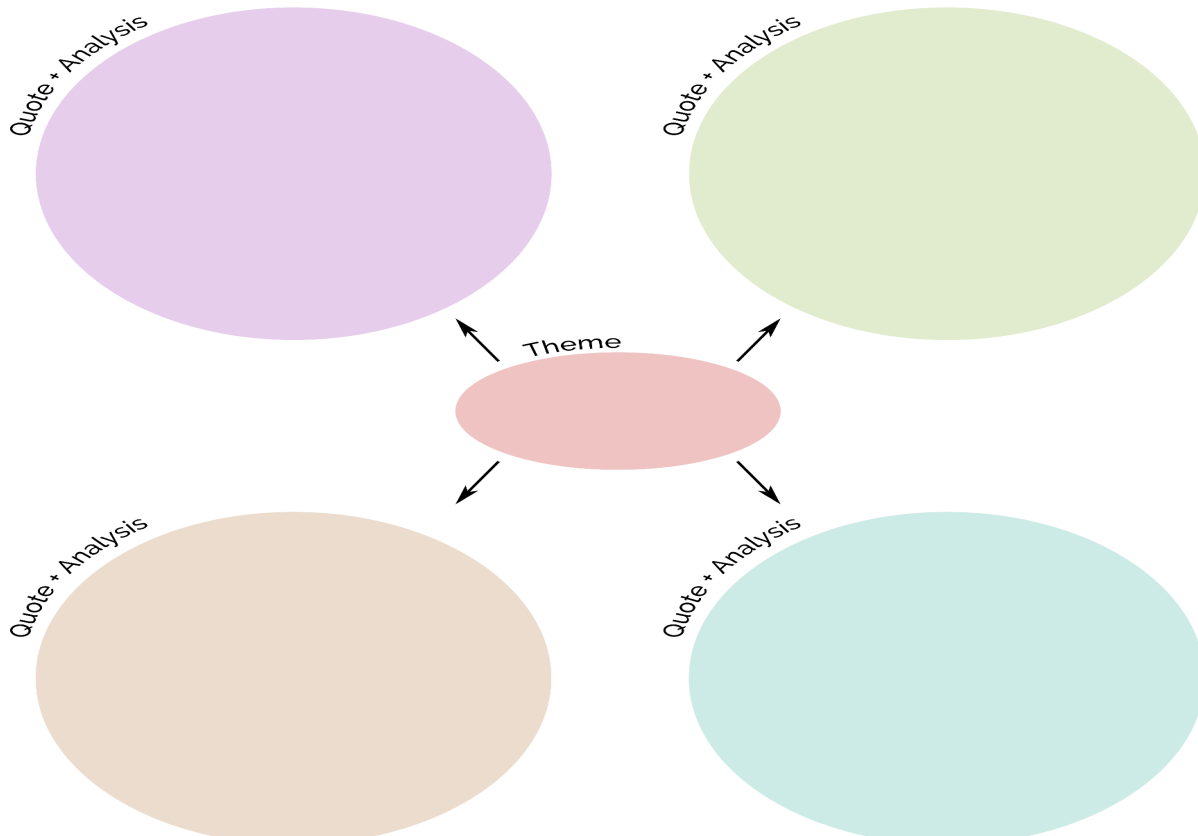
I felt a funeral, in my Brain

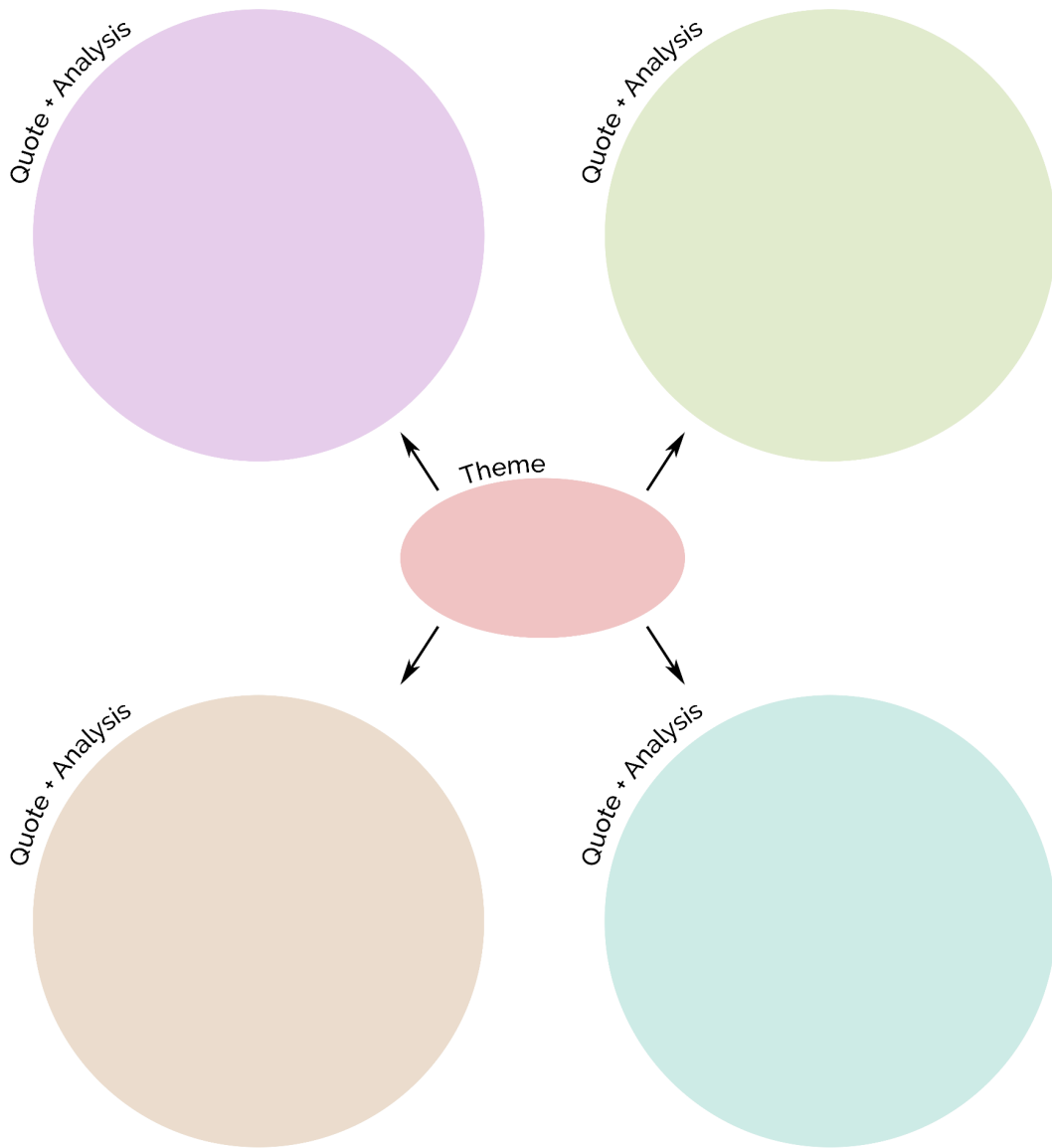
Emily Dickinson

TASKS

1a. Pick two of these themes, then make a mind map for each by adding four separate quotations from the story that relate to them. Make short notes of analysis, explaining how and why each one relates to your theme.

- Madness
- Reason vs Intuition
- Grief
- Loss
- Trauma
- Harmony vs Dissonance
- Psychology
- Emotions
- Knowledge
- The Cosmos
- Spirituality and Mysticism





1b. What, in your opinion, is the author’s final message or statement about each theme that you chose?

2. Investigate the tone progression in "I felt a Funeral, in my brain." How does Dickinson use tonal shifts to convey the speaker's descent into a mental and emotional breakdown?

3. Explore the attitudes to psychology and grief in Emily Dickinson, paying close attention to the societal beliefs on mental health. How might these influences shape the themes portrayed in the poem?

4. Analyse the imagery of the funeral procession and the imagery of the breaking mind in the poem. How does Dickinson use these elements to depict the speaker's mental unravelling?

PRACTICE ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the themes of mental breakdown and psychological disintegration in "I felt a Funeral, in my brain." How does Dickinson portray the unravelling of the speaker's mind through the extended metaphor of a funeral?
2. In "I felt a Funeral, in my brain," Dickinson addresses the theme of altered perception during a breakdown. Discuss the poem's representation of the speaker's perception and the disintegration of reality.
3. Compare the theme of mental breakdown in "I felt a Funeral, in my brain" with another Emily Dickinson poem that also explores themes of psychological distress. How do these pieces differ or converge in their treatment of mental health?