

Responding to Poetry Exercise

1. First, read the below poem and annotate. This means highlighting essential elements and taking notes on what they could mean - this was modeled on the board for you prior to this exercise.

Storm Warnings by Adrienne Rich

The glass has been falling all the afternoon,
And knowing better than the instrument
What winds are walking overhead, what zone
Of gray unrest is moving across the land,
5 I leave the book on a pillowed chair
And walk from window to closed window, watching
Boughs strain against the sky

And think again, as often when the air
`Moves inward toward a silent core of waiting,
10 How with a single purpose time has traveled
By secret currents of the undiscerned
`Into this polar realm. Weather abroad
And weather in the heart alike come on
Regardless of prediction.

15 Between foreseeing and averting change
Lies all the mastery of elements
Which clocks and weatherglasses cannot alter.
Time in the hand is not control of time,
Nor shattered fragments of an instrument
20 A proof against the wind; the wind will rise,
We can only close the shutters.

I draw the curtains as the sky goes black
And set a match to candles sheathed in glass
Against the keyhole draught, the insistent whine
25 Of weather through the unsealed aperture.
This is our sole defense against the season;
These are the things that we have learned to do Who live in troubled regions.

2. Once you've read, annotated, and understood the above poem, respond to the below prompt.

Write a response in which you explain how the organization of the poem and the use of concrete details reveal both its literal and its metaphorical meanings. In your discussion, show how both of these meanings relate to the title. This should be at least three paragraphs long in order to answer the full question using cited lines from the poem.