

Name: _____

Date: _____

Analyze Slant Rhymes: "The Secret Heart"

Directions: Whenever you analyze poetry, it is important to analyze structure, meaning, imagery, the language, and the effect of the poem on the reader. Below is a poem by Robert Coffin.

1. First, circle the slant rhymes.
2. Second, describe what the poem means and explain your answer.

"The Secret Heart"

Across the years he could recall
His father one way best of all.

In the stillest hour of night
The boy awakened to a light.

Half in dreams, he saw his sire
With his great hands full of fire.

The man had struck a match to see
If his son slept peacefully.

He held his palms each side the spark
His love had kindled in the dark.

His two hands were curved apart
In the semblance of a heart.

He wore, it seemed to his small son,
A bare heart on his hidden one,

A heart that gave out such a glow
No son awake could bear to know.

It showed a look upon a face
Too tender for the day to trace.

One instant, it lit all about,
And then the secret heart went out.

But it shone long enough for one
To know that hands held up the sun.

What does the poem mean? Explain your answer in complete sentences.
