Close reading activity for “Negro Hero” by Gwendolyn Brooks

1. Circle the words in the first two stanzas that stand out.
2. What’s the **connotation** of these words?
3. What adjective describes this type of **diction**?
4. What is the author’s topic?
5. What does this diction tell about the author’s **tone**?
6. Find 2 examples of **parallel structure** in the third stanza.
7. What is being emphasized in the first example?
8. What is being emphasized in the second example?
9. Find 3 examples of **alliteration** in the third stanza.
10. Alliterations can increase the pace of the text. Why might the author want this stanza read faster?
11. Break down the **metaphor** in the fourth stanza. Take some examples and explain both sides of the comparison to aid you in this task.
12. What’s the **purpose** of all of the questions in the fifth stanza?
13. What effect does it create?
14. Why is the sixth stanza in parenthesis?
15. Why does the sixth stanza **rhyme**?
16. What tone is created by these choices (14 and 15)?
17. The seventh stanza wraps up/highlights a point from each stanza. How does this conclusion show the **theme** of this poem?
18. Why use those specific pieces from the entire poem?