

The Formalistic Approach o I. READING A POEM: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FORMALISTIC APPROACH Here is the situation: The reader is to be presented with a short but complete poem. Its author and its era of composition are unknown. Its language, however, is English; it is not a translation. Here is the poem: A slumber did my spirit seal; I had no human fears; She seemed a thing that could not feel The touch of earthly years. No motion has she now, no force; She neither hears nor sees; Rolled round in earth's diurnal course, With rocks, and stones, and trees. The poem seems quite simple, easy to grasp and to understand.