You can use these questions to help guide your readings for structure and form:

**Step 1: Begin by considering how the poem sits on the page.**
- Does the poem fill the space of the page, or does it sit isolated in the middle?
- Is the poem narrow or wide?
- Are the lines long or short?
- Is each line of regular length, or do the lines extend or contract in places?

**Step 2: Next, consider larger units.**
- Does the poem have stanzas (groupings of lines that are separated by spaces)?
- If so, how are they structured?
- Are the sizes of stanzas regular or erratic?

**Step 3: Then, consider the relation between all these component parts.**
- What effect do adjacent lines or stanzas have on one another?
- How does the poem, through its structure and form, tell us how to read it, and why?
- How does the experience of reading for structure and form contribute to the poem’s meaning?

**Step 4: Finally, consider the poem’s relation to established forms or genres.**
- Is the poem an example of a particular form or genre? (Such as the sonnet?)
- If so, does it adhere to the expectations of that form or genre? Or does it challenge those formal expectations and constraints?
- If the poem isn’t an example of a particular form or genre, does it still gesture toward a particular genre? (For example, is it a stretched sonnet, or does it use “haiku-like” imagery?)