Poetry Analysis – Robert Frost's "Nothing Gold Can Stay"

Directions: Listen to the poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay" by Robert Frost. Now you will read the poem again several times as you respond to the analysis guide.

Nothing Gold Can Stay
By Robert Frost

Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.

1. [SUMMARY NOTATION]: Read the poem again. In a sentence or two, summarize your first impression. What is the author saying?

2. Number each line for ease of discussion.

3. Read the poem aloud to yourself. Circle any unfamiliar words. Have a discussion at your table group about these words and predict a meaning. Annotate in the margin.

4. The attitude of the speaker and poet communicate the tone of the poem. What is the attitude of the speaker in this poem? (amused, angry, serious, etc.) What specific clues (images) from the text did you use to determine the attitude?

5. [ANALYSIS]: Read the poem again and focus on word choice and language.

What meaning, other than color, does "**gold**" have?

Who is the "**her**" referred to in lines 2 and 3?

What could the "**early leaf**" be referring to?

What does the phrase "**but only so an hour**" mean?

Individual Poetry response: On a piece of lined paper, respond to the following 3 prompts, each with a **well-developed** paragraph (**you must have 3 separate paragraphs**). Be sure to include a clear claim to begin each paragraph and to support your claim with specific evidence (**QUOTES)** from the book.

Theme:
What theme do you understand after reading this poem?

Connect to the Novel:
Why do you think S.E. Hinton chose to include this poem in *The Outsiders*?

How does the theme of the poem relate to what the characters Johnny and Ponyboy are going through in this novel?

Additional e/c question (must be answered in complete, well-developed paragraph, with evidence—properly cited—for credit):
        Does the poem add an element of foreshadowing to the plot? Explain.