Peer review guidelines for lofty poems

Today you’re tasked with reading over your friends’ lofty poems. After your poem has been reviewed, I’ll ask you each to read your poems aloud to the class, so that we can get some sense of their aural effects.

The guidelines below will help you to provide some feedback as we review one another’s work in a laid-back “workshop” setting.

Rules of Engagement.

1. Be helpful.
2. Be respectful and kind.
3. Be constructive.

Guidelines for this assignment. As you read your peer’s work, take a few notes in response to the following prompts and be prepared to share your notes in conversation with your peer about their piece.

1. **Tone.** Is the poem appropriately “lofty,” “hifalutin,” or otherwise high-minded in its praise? How would you describe the loftiness achieved (e.g., academic, spiritual, romantic, etc.)?

2. **Subject.** What person, place, or thing is the subject of each poem? Does the poem adequately treat the subject’s characteristics? Are there any characteristics of the subject which are left unsung?
3. **Word choice.** How would you describe, in a few words, the choice of words your friend has made? In what way do they contribute to the poem’s loftiness? Indicate at least three words that are particularly apt and at least two words which you think might have been more well-chosen.

4. **Other comments.** Is there anything else you’d like to talk to your friend about regarding her or his poem?