1st Premise = Statement Containing a Literary Term

2nd Premise = Textual Support (quote or paraphrase)

Conclusion = Textual Support

(Beginning the Second Paragraph) 1st Premise: The diction in the opening stanza creates the ambivalent tone. 2nd premise: Drawing into question a scene that borders on the fine line of abuse and love, the reflective narrator says, “The whiskey on your breath/Could make a small boy dizzy;/But I hung on like death:/Such waltzing is not easy.” Conclusion: The father comes home drunk and it is unclear whether or not this is a playful waltz or a harmful event unfolding before our eyes. Since the narrator “hung on like death,” we do not know, if like death, the child yearns for the permanence of this special moment with his father. On the other hand, death is scary – and as such – it is also unclear whether the boy is clinging to his father out of fear. 1st Premise: The forced rhyme scheme in the first stanza also reinforces this conflict. 2nd Premise: As the father and son waltz through these drunken steps, the narrator tells us that he becomes “dizzy” because the movement is “not easy.” Conclusion: There is also a regular rhyme scheme within the stanza between “breath” and “death.” Since the rhyme scheme is neither here nor there, the ambivalence of the event is yet again re-established.

 1st premise: