Paper on Robert Browning’s “Porphyria’s Lover”

Your task in this paper is to offer a character analysis of the speaker of this dramatic monologue. As in “My Last Duchess,” the speaker’s monologue reveals things about himself and his perception of the world. How would you characterize the speaker himself and his relationship with Porphyria?

After reading through the poem, go through it again and ask yourself why the speaker says each of the things he does. Pay close attention to details: why does he do one thing rather than another, or say one thing rather than another? Why does he present events as he does? Once you have ideas about the poem’s local features, decide what kind of claim you want to make about the speaker’s character as a whole. This larger claim will form your thesis, which should be clearly stated near the beginning of the paper. Remember to give yourself extra time to revise the paper and to edit it for clarity; see the paper pointers sheet in the website readings. The essay should be 3 pages long, but concise and rich in detailed insights.