

# FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE & LITERARY DEVICES



Tennyson



Baudelaire



Dickinson



Irving



Whitman



Mind  
Map





# THE “WHY”

## WHY IS POETRY IMPORTANT?

- Poetry takes a simple concept and makes it more powerful and beautiful
- Which one of these poems is better? Why?



### The Turtle

comes out of the water  
walks across the sand  
digs a nest  
and lays some eggs

By: Mr. Brooks

### The Turtle

breaks from the blue-black  
skin of the water, dragging her shell  
with its mossy scutes  
across the shallows and through the rushes  
and over the mudflats, to the uprise,  
to the yellow sand,  
to dig her ungainly feet  
a nest, and hunker there spewing  
her white eggs down  
into the darkness...

By: Mary Oliver

2

All

Person  
meta

# WHAT IS FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE?

- Figurative language presents ordinary things in fresh ways, communicating ideas that go beyond words' ordinary meanings.

- HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES...



# FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE:

## IT' S *LIKE* A SIMILE

– a comparison of two unlike things using the words like or as.



Examples of simile:

- “*Life* is like a *box of chocolates*.”
- “The *girl* is as beautiful as a *rose*.”
- “The *willow* is like an *etching*...”





# FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE:

## IT IS A METAPHOR

– a comparison of two unlike things without using the words like or as.

Examples of metaphor:

- “My father is a tall, sturdy (oak).”
- “The hotel is a diamond in the sky.”
- “who know’ s if the moon’ s a balloon...”



# FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE:

## PERSONIFICATION

Qualities  
verbs

– the giving of human qualities to an animal, object, or idea.



Examples of personification:

- “Hunger *sat shivering* on the road.”
- “The flowers *danced* on the lawn.”
- “SpongeBob SquarePants” and “Smokey the Bear” are personified characters.

# FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE:

OTT ✓  
(**HYPERBOLE**) ✓

- an exaggerated statement used to make a point.

intense



Examples of hyperbole:

- "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." ✓
- "I could sleep for a year." ✓
- "This book weighs a ton." ✓





# FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE:

## IMAGINE THE IMAGERY

-figures of speech or vivid descriptions used to produce mental images (appeal to the five senses).

adjectives  
→ sweaty

Examples of imagery:

- “Her clammy back felt (like) bark of a summer’s rain.”
- “...the small pond behind my house was lapping at its banks...”
- “The willow’s music is like a soprano...”



sound

→ Opera



# WHAT IS A SOUND DEVICE?

- The effect of a poem can depend on the sound of its words.
- HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES...



# SOUND DEVICE:

शब्द

## SOUNDS LIKE ONOMATOPOEIA

- the use of words whose sounds suggest their meanings.

Examples of onomatopoeia:

- “The bang of a gun.”
- “The hiss of a snake.”
- “The buzz of a bee.”
- “The pop of a firecracker.”



# SOUND DEVICE: REPETITION

- the repeating of sound, words, phrases or lines in a poem used to emphasize an idea or convey a certain feeling.

beginning  
Anaphora

Examples of repetition:

- “Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us, Sing a song of the hope that the present has brought us...”
- “I think I can, I think I can, I think I can, I think I can...”
- “The isolation during my vacation created a situation of relaxation.”

## SOUND DEVICE:

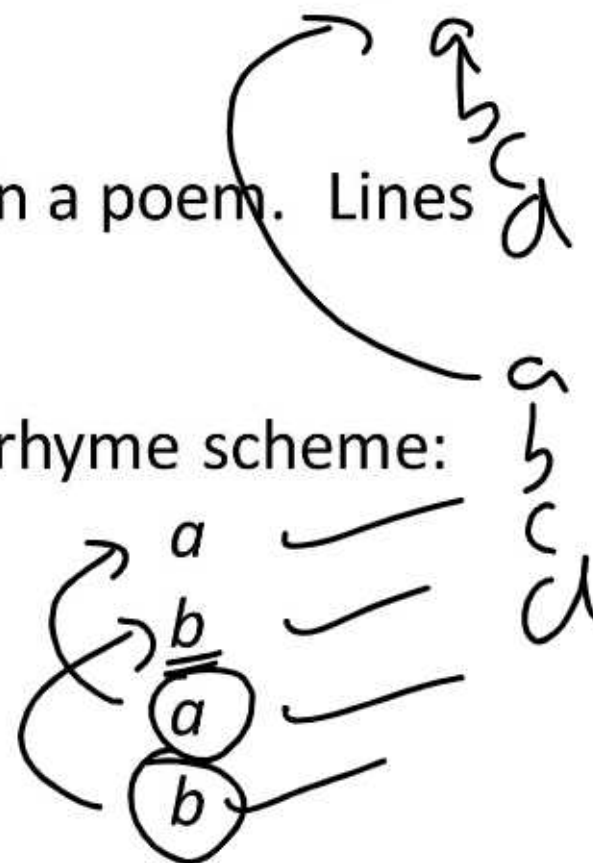
# I RHyme ALL THE TIME AND I GUESS IT SOUNDS FINE...

- repetition of sound at the ends of words. (Rhyme occurring within a line is called internal rhyme. Rhyme occurring at the end of a line is called end rhyme)

Rhyme Scheme – the pattern of end rhyme in a poem. Lines that rhyme are given the same letter.

Example of internal rhyme, end rhyme, and rhyme scheme:

- I looked at the *shell* in the (ocean) ✓
- I looked at the *bell* in the sea, ✓
- I noticed the *smell* and the **motion** ✓
- Were very peculiar to me.” ✓





# SOUND DEVICE: ASSONANCE

a, e, i, o, u

- repetition of **VOWEL SOUNDS** at the **BEGINNING, MIDDLE** or **END** of *at least two words in a line of poetry.*

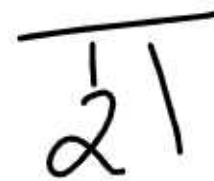
## Examples of Assonance

- Repeating the “eh” sound in the words:  
“crescent,” “flesh,” “extending,” “medicine”  
and “death”

# SOUND DEVICE: CONSONANCE



- repetition of **CONSONANT SOUNDS** at the **BEGINNING, MIDDLE or END** of *at least two words in a line of poetry.*



Examples of Consonance

Repeating the “sh” sound in the words:

“shush,” “wish,” “sharp,” “cushion” and  
“quash”

# **SOUND DEVICE: ALLITERATION**

- repetition of **CONSONANT SOUNDS** at the **BEGINNING** of *at least two words in a line of poetry*. Example of alliteration:

## Examples of Alliteration

- “the frog frolicked frivolously on the forest floor.”
- “...Little skinny shoulder blades Sticking through your clothes...”
- “...struck out by a steed flying fearless and fleet...”



# FORM: ENJAMBMENT

- The running over of a line or thought into the next line without a strong break or pause

- Example:

I' m feeling rather sleepy, but.....

I really don' t know why. I guess it . . . - .

is the way the day has spun. . . .

out of control.

# FORM: FREE VERSE

- Poetry that does not contain regular patterns of rhyme and rhythm. The lines flow more naturally and have “everyday speech” rhythm. Poets who write in free verse often use the sound devices we have already discussed. Here’s an example from May Swenson’s “Southbound on the Freeway:

They all hiss as they glide,  
like inches, down the marked  
tapes. Those soft shapes,  
shadowy inside  
the hard bodies – are they  
their guts or their brains

- Label the assonance, consonance and alliteration.
- What is the effect of the enjambment?

# ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT TODAY'S LESSON:

- **FIGURATIVE  
LANGUAGE**
- **SOUND  
DEVICES**
- **FORM**













Q.

1. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following

**“My name is Ozymandias, King of kings”**

**a** Alliteration

**c** Personification

**b** Hyperbole

**d** Metaphor

Q.

1. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following

**"My name is Ozymandias, King of kings"**

a

Alliteration

~~✓~~

b

Hyperbole

~~✓~~

c

Personification

~~✓~~

d

Metaphor

~~✓~~

Here they have used hyperbole because  
Ozymandias refers himself as king of the kings.

Q.

**2. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following**

**“But one night a nightingale  
In the moonlight cold and pale  
Perched upon the sumac tree  
Casting forth her melody”**

**a** Alliteration

**b** Hyperbole

**c** Imagery

**d** Hyperbole



Q.

**2. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following**

**“But one night a nightingale  
In the moonlight cold and pale  
Perched upon the sumac tree  
Casting forth her melody”**

☐ a Alliteration

☐ b Hyperbole

☒ c Imagery

☐ d Hyperbole

**Here we can imagine a scene of night that is cold and nightingale is singing melodiously on a branch of sumac tree**

Q.

3. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

"Ducks had swum and herons waded *walk*

To her as she serenaded *song*

And a solitary loon

*cry*

Wept, beneath the summer moon

a Alliteration

b Simile

c Imagery

d Metaphor

Q.

3. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

"Ducks had swum and herons waded

To her as she serenaded

And a solitary loon

Wept, beneath the summer moon

verb / complex

a

Alliteration

b

Simile

c

Imagery

d

Metaphor

Here the poet has presented a kinesthetic imagery; this means he has described certain movements by ducks and herons that are trying to reach to the sumac tree to hear nightingale's voice.



Q.

4. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

**"The field and cloud are lovers"**

**a**

Alliteration

**b**

Simile

**c**

Imagery

**d**

Metaphor

Q.

4. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

**“The field and cloud are lovers”**

a

Alliteration

b

Simile

c

Imagery

d

Metaphor

**Here the poet is comparing field and cloud with lovers.**

Q.

5. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

"All the world's a stage"

a Alliteration

b Simile

c Imagery

d Metaphor



Q.

5. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

✓ ✓  
"All the world's a stage"

a Alliteration

b Simile

c Imagery

adjectives  
d Metaphor

Here the poet has compared world with stage.

Q.

6. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

**"The bride hath paced into the hall,  
Red as a rose is she"**

**a** Alliteration

**b** Simile

**c** Hyperbole

**d** Metaphor

Q.

**6. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:**

**“The bride hath paced into the hall,  
Red as a rose is she”**

**a** Alliteration

**b** Simile

**c** Hyperbole

**d** Metaphor

**Here the bride is compared with rose by using ‘as’**



Q.

**7. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:**

**“He lifted his head from his drinking, as cattle do”**

**a** Alliteration

**b** Simile

**c** Hyperbole

**d** Metaphor

Q.

7. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

He lifted his head from his drinking, as cattle do"

like / as

a

Alliteration

✗

b

Simile

✓

c

Hyperbole

d

Metaphor

Here the bride is compared with rose by using 'as'

✗

Q.

8. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

"I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions.  
Whatever I see I swallow immediately"

a Simile

b Hyperbole

c Metaphor

d Personification



Q.

8. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

"I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions.

Whatever I see I swallow immediately"

mirror

a

Simile

~~/~~

b

Hyperbole

~~/~~

c

Metaphor

~~/~~

d

Personification

~~/~~

Here the poet has personified a mirror because the mirror is describing itself.

Q.

9. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:                     

"I am dotted silver threads dropped from heaven

By the gods. Nature then takes me, to adorn *decorate*

Her fields and valleys."

a Simile

b Hyperbole

c Metaphor

d Personification

Q.

9. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

"I am dotted silver threads dropped from heaven  
By the gods. Nature then takes me, to adorn  
Her fields and valleys."



a

Simile

~~Like last~~

b

Hyperbole

c

Metaphor

~~✓~~

d

Personification

~~✓~~

The poet has personified rain that describes itself as dotted  
silver threads from heaven adorn



Q.

**10. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:**

**“Once upon a time a frog  
Croaked away in Bingle bog”**

**a** Alliteration

**b** Repetition

**c** Metaphor

**d** Onomatopoeia

Q.

**10. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:**

**“Once upon a time a frog  
Croaked away in Bingle bog”**

☐ a Alliteration

☐ b Repetition

☐ c Metaphor

☒ d Onomatopoeia

**So, here the poet used the word ‘croaked’ which is a sound made by the frog**

Q.

11. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

"I chatter over stony ways,  
In little sharps and trebles,  
I bubble into eddying bays,  
I babble on the pebbles.

a Alliteration

c Onomatopoeia

b Repetition

d Anaphora



Q.

11. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

I chatter over stony ways,  
In little sharps and trebles,  
I bubble into eddying bays,  
I babble on the pebbles.

a

Alliteration

☒

b

Repetition

☒

c

Onomatopoeia

☒

d

Anaphora

☒

The words 'chatter', 'trebles', 'bubble' and 'babble' are used to show flowing water of a spring

sands

Q.

**12. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:**

**“All the world’s a stage and all the men and women  
merely players:**

**They have their exits and entrances”**

**a** Metaphor

**b** Repetition

**c** Assonance

**d** Onomatopoeia

Q.

**12. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:**

**“All the world’s a stage and all the men and women merely players:**

**They have their exits and entrances”**

a

Metaphor

b

Repetition

c

Assonance

d

Onomatopoeia

**Use of sound ‘e’ (men, women, merely, players, exits and entrances)**

Q.

**13. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:**

**“Good gracious! How you hop!**

**Over the fields and the water too:**

**a** Alliteration

**b** Repetition

**c** Assonance

**d** Onomatopoeia



Q.

13. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

Good gracious! How you hop!

Over the fields and the water too:

a

Alliteration



b

Repetition



c

Assonance



d

Onomatopoeia



Use of sound 'o' (Good, you, hop, too)

Q.

**14. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:**

**Than unswept stone, besmear'd with sluttish time**

**a** Repetition

**b** Consonance

**c** Assonance

**d** Metaphor

Q.

**14. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:**

**Than unswept stone, besmear'd with sluttish time**

a

Repetition

b

Consonance

c

Assonance

d

Metaphor

**The use of consonant sound 's' and 't' in the beginning, middle and end of the words.**

Q.

15. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

**"Still treads the shadow of his foe"**

#JMD

**a** Repetition

**b** Consonance

**c** Assonance

**d** Metaphor



Q.

15. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

“Still treads the shadow of his foe”

a

Repetition

b

Consonance

c

Assonance

d

Metaphor

The use of consonant sound ‘s’ and ‘t’ in the beginning, middle and end of the words.

Q.

**16. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:**

**“And flickered his two-forked tongue  
From his lips, and mused a moment,  
And stopped and drank a little more,  
From the burning bowels of the earth.**

**a** Repetition

**b** Anaphora

**c** Alliteration

**d** Onomatopoeia

Q.

**16. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:**

**“And flickered his two-forked tongue  
From his lips, and mused a moment,  
And stopped and drank a little more,  
From the burning bowels of the earth.**

a

Repetition

b

Anaphora

c

Alliteration

d

Onomatopoeia

**Use of ‘b’ sound in burning bowels.**

Q.

**17. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:**

**“His horsemen hard behind us ride;  
Should they our steps discover,  
Then who will cheer my bonny bride  
When they have slain her lover/”**

**a** Repetition

**b** Anaphora

**c** Alliteration

**d** Onomatopoeia



Q.

17. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

"His horsemen hard behind us ride;  
Should they our steps discover,  
Then who will cheer my bonny bride  
When they have slain her lover/"

a

Repetition



b

Anaphora



c

Alliteration



d

Onomatopoeia



sound

- Use of 'h' sound in His horsemen hard
- Use of 'b' sound in bonny bride

Q.

**18. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:**

**Then good Saint Peter grew angry,  
For he was hungry and faint;  
And surely such a woman  
Was enough to provoke a saint.**

**a** Alliteration

**b** Metaphor

**c** Enjabment

**d** Simile

Q.

**18. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:**

Then good Saint Peter grew angry,  
For he was hungry and faint;  
And surely such a woman  
Was enough to provoke a saint.

a

Alliteration

b

Metaphor

c

Enjambment

d

Simile

**Lines 3 & 4 - Running lines of poetry from one to the next without using any kind of punctuation to indicate a stop.**

Q.

**19. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:**

**For she said, "My cakes that seem too small  
When I eat of them myself  
Are yet too large to give away."  
So she put them on the shelf.**

**a** Alliteration

**b** Metaphor

**c** Enjambment

**d** Simile





Q.

**19. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:**

For she said, "My cakes that seem too small  
When I eat of them myself  
Are yet too large to give away."  
So she put them on the shelf.

☐

Alliteration

☐

Metaphor

☒

Enjambment

☐

Simile



**Lines 1,2 & 3 - Running lines of poetry from one to the next without using any kind of punctuation to indicate a stop.**

Q.

**20. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:**

**Away, away in the Northland,  
Where the hours of the day are few,  
And the nights are so long in winter  
That they cannot sleep them through;**

**a** Alliteration

**b** Repetition

**c** Enjambment

**d** Metaphor

Q.

20. Which Literary Device (Figure of Speech) is used in the following:

Away, away in the Northland,

Where the hours of the day are few,

And the nights are so long in winter

That they cannot sleep them through;

a Alliteration

**b** Repetition

c Enjambment

d Metaphor

**'away' word is repeated**