

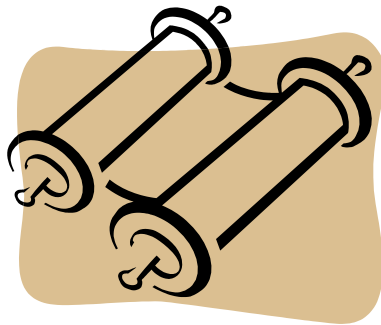
Warm Up: Answer the ? below

What do you think you
should do as you read
poetry?

Get out your A Tale Tell Heart
Comprehension ?'s and Assignment
or CC if it is incomplete

Introduction to 8th Grade Poetry

Recognize challenges as opportunities for creative growth



What I think you should do as you Read Poetry?

- ❑ As you read each poem, read it with a pencil in hand.
- ❑ Take notes (read with a purpose).
- ❑ Highlight or underline parts of the poem that you like or find puzzling.
- ❑ Circle words in the poem that you enjoy or find interesting.
- ❑ Write down questions about each poem to be raised in class discussion.

Remember, when we read poetry out loud, it is meant to be read with **feeling** and **appropriate tone**..

What makes writing a poem vs. a story?

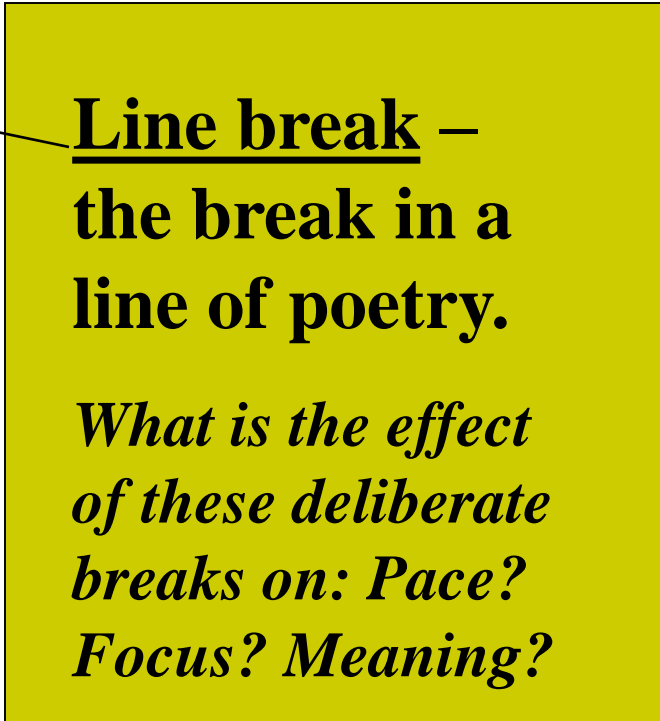
- ❑ poetic language appeals to feelings – description
- ❑ set in a special form
- ❑ has a special rhythm to it
- ❑ words chosen on how they sound as well as what they say



Example #1

As the cat
climbed over
the top of
the jam closet
first the right forefoot
carefully
then the hind
stepped down
into the pit of the empty
flowerpot

- William Carlos Williams



Line break –
the break in a
line of poetry.

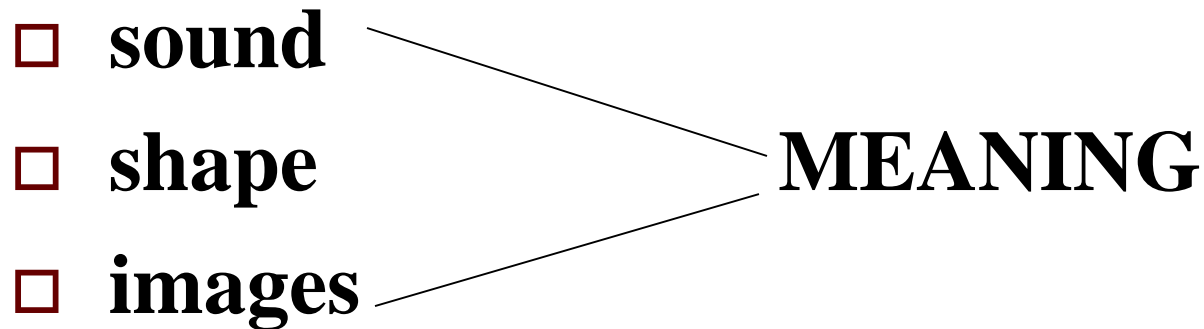
*What is the effect
of these deliberate
breaks on: Pace?
Focus? Meaning?*

Questions to ask when reading a poem:

- ❑ When/where is the poem set?
- ❑ What situation does it describe?
- ❑ What story does it tell?
- ❑ Who is the speaker?

Poetry is about suggestion rather than direct statements. You have to think about all elements to figure out what it means to you.

Elements of Poetry



Topic = subject

Theme = message

Example #2

- **This is just to say I have eaten the plums
that were in the icebox and which you were
probably saving for breakfast forgive me
they were delicious so sweet and so cold**

Example #2

**This is just to say
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forgive me
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Literal v. Figurative Language



ES: Demonstrate intellectual courage

Literal v. Figurative Analysis

- ❑ **Literal (Denotative) Level** – looking at the words for their usual meaning without exaggeration or imagination.
- ❑ **Figurative (Connotative) Level** – using words out of their ordinary meaning to add beauty and force.

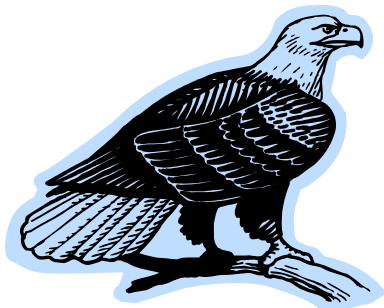


Figurative (Connotative) Language

- language that represents one thing in terms of another, usually by comparison.**
- Figurative language creates vivid sensory images in our minds and makes poems fresh and original.**

The Eagle

- He clasps the crag with crooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ring'd with the azure world, he stands.
The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls.



- Alfred Lord Tennyson



□ **Summary - Denotative**

- The poem has a very simple concept. It focuses on one eagle, alone in the wild. In the first line, the eagle is atop a mountain, poised to strike. He is high up where no other animal or human can go. He is alone in his grandeur, with the sun and the bright blue sky forming the perfect background scenery.
- The second stanza shows the only action of the eagle. The first and second line show that as he watches from his high perch, the sea moves below him. Then, in the final line, the eagle makes a grand dive towards the sea. The poem ends here, with the reader not quite sure why the eagle dived off his mountain roost.



The Eagle: Analysis

LITERAL:

Analysis: Tennyson provides the image of a predatory bird scouring the sea for prey.

FIGURATIVE:

Example: "He clasps the crag with crooked hands." (line 1).

Analysis: The hard consonant sounds combined with images of crags and crooked hands set up the desolateness of nature and its cruelty.

Example: "And like a thunderbolt he falls." (line 6).

Analysis: Tennyson employs a simile, comparing the eagle's descent to a thunderbolt. It hints at the suddenness at which life can end.

Types of Figurative Language

- ❑ **metaphor** - a direct comparison between two seemingly unlike things.
- ❑ **simile** - a comparison between two seemingly unlike things using *like* or *as*.
- ❑ **personification** - giving human characteristics to inanimate objects.
- ❑ **allusion** - a reference to a famous person, event, or other literary work.
- ❑ **hyperbole** - a deliberate exaggeration.
- ❑ **pun** – a play on words - when a word or phrase is used with two different meanings.

Figurative Language: Simile and Metaphor



ES: Make decisions after reflection and review

SIMILE

Descriptions of people, places, or things are often made more vivid through the use of comparisons.

Definition: Any comparison that is introduced by the preposition like or as

- ❑ Harold was like a werewolf, waiting for the moon to turn full.
- ❑ Linda's personality is as exciting as a carton of low-fat cottage cheese

METAPHOR

Metaphors offer a more dramatic way of drawing a comparison. Unlike similes, there are no prepositions used.

Definition: draws a comparison. States that one thing is something else. Just watch that you don't over-use them – then they become clichés...

- ☐ **Life is just a bowl of cherries**
- ☐ **He is a stuffed shirt**
- ☐ **Jane is a tower of strength**

Cliché

- ❑ a phrase or opinion that is overused and betrays a lack of original thought.
 - ❑ Meek as a mouse
 - ❑ As old as the hills
 - ❑ Busy as a bee
 - ❑ Strong as a bull
 - ❑ Brave as a lion
 - ❑ etc.

**You're as
skinny
as a rail**

**and you're
a mountain**



Other Poetic Devices



ES: Make decisions after reflection and review

Vivid and precise Word Choice

- Use what we learned about simile and metaphor yesterday to make these mundane sentences sparkle! Select any 3 - but avoid clichés!

- **The moon was full**
- **The tidal wave was big**
- **The diamond was bright**
- **The keys on the jailer's belt were heavy**
- **The tea was hot**
- **The man walked quickly**

Personification

- A figure of speech where animals, ideas, or inorganic objects are given human characteristics
 - “The wind stood up and gave a shout. He whistled on his two fingers.”
 - The thunder grumbled like an old man. (personification and simile)
 - Read “Autumn”



What is this poem personifying?

**It squats,
head hanging low,
patient
It watches through my skylight
as the sun fades into the trees,
Then suddenly becomes alert,
preparing for the assault
of darkness**

**When night creeps through it raises its metal-sheathed head
so its gaping mouths face the oncoming foe**

Click!

Allusion

- A reference in a work of literature to a person, place, or event in another work of literature, history, art, or music
 - He gave a **Herculean** effort during the football game.
 - He was a real **Scrooge** when asked to donate to the organization.
 - I thought the software was safe to open, but it was a **Trojan Horse**.



Grass- *Carl Sandburg*

**Pile the bodies high at Austerlitz and Waterloo,
Shovel them under and let me work –
I am the grass: I cover all**

**And pile them high at Gettysburg.
And pile them high at Ypres and Verdun.
Shovel them under and let me work.
Two years, ten years, and the passengers ask the conductor:
What place is this?
Where are we now?**

**I am the grass.
Let me work.**

“Grass” – Carl Sandburg

Literal: Read aloud first time and answer questions:

- ☐ What is the setting?
- ☐ Who is the narrator?
- ☐ What story does it tell?
- ☐ Where is the crucial moment where the action *shifts*? – what do you make of this change?

Figurative: Read again silently and try to answer the following questions:

- ☐ Where do you see examples of PERSONIFICATION
- ☐ What is the TONE of the poem? (I hear 2 distinct tones...)
- ☐ What are possible THEMES of the poem?(A couple work here...)
 - What is Sandburg saying about these themes?



Hyperbole

- An extravagant exaggeration
 - You've grown like a bean sprout.
 - I'm older than the hills.



Symbolism

- Many words like “fire” can have multiple meaning – literal and figuratively. This adds to the mystery of poetry



And Now for Words Related to Sound

- Alliteration
- Assonance
- Rhyme
- Meter

Alliteration

- The repetition of consonant sounds (often at the beginning of words) – often used in advertising/slogans
 - “Tippecanoe and Tyler, too!”
 - Many tongue twisters are examples of alliteration
 - *Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers*

Assonance

- The repetition of vowel sounds
 - “I like Ike”
 - “He gives his harness bells a shake” (from Robert Frost’s “Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening”)
 - A blinding sight

Rhyme and Rhyme Scheme

- **Rhyme**-A word that corresponds with another in related sound
 - Behold, cold, bold, sold, doled, polled, etc.
- **Rhyme Scheme** is the pattern in which sounds in lines of poetry end.
 - Each new sound in a poem is assigned a different letter. (The first line of a rhyming poem is always assigned the letter “a.”)
 - If a sound repeats, it is assigned the same letter as the line in which the same sound appeared.

Meter

- The measured arrangement of words in poetry, as by accentual rhythm, syllabic quantity, or the number of syllables in a line
 - There are several types of set meter