Unit 5-Poetry
Study Guide
Notes
Personification

- Definition: When non-human objects or animals are given human characteristics

- Examples:
  - When you let proud words go, it’s not easy to call them back; they walk off proud
  - Brooks are always laughing
  - I thought the earth remembered me
**Alliteration**

- **Definition:** the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words

- **Examples:**
  - Crusts of **black** burned **buttered** toast, gristly **bits** of **beefy** roasts
  - the slim **curved** **crook** of the moon tonight

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“While I **nodded**, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping...”

_The Raven—_  
Edgar Allan Poe
Metaphor

• Definition: A comparison drawn between two or more unlike things

• Examples:
  • Raymond is a bear when he’s tired.
  • Fame is a bee; it has a song—it has a sting.
  • The earth is a black shuffling bear
  • I am a feather on the bright sky
Simile

• Definition: A comparison drawn between two or more unlikely things using the words “like” or “as”

• Examples:
  • Ethan was like a bull in a china shop.
  • His back felt stiff as a board.
  • The sight of his destroyed home made him recoil like a snake.
  • The rollercoaster was as high as a mountain.
Hyperbole

• Definition: An exaggeration or impossible statement

• Examples:
  • Strong as 10 regular men, definitely.
  • You know I’d walk 1,000 miles if I could just see you tonight.
  • I’ve told you a million times
  • It was so cold, I saw polar bears wearing jackets
Onomatopoeia

• Definition: the use of words whose sounds echo their meanings

• Examples:
  • *Bong! Bong! Bong!* The bell sounded over and over again
  • *It SUSHES.* It hushes the loudness in the road
  • *Plop, plop, fizz, fizz,* oh what a relief it is
Mood

• Definition: the feeling or atmosphere that a writer creates for the reader

• Examples:
  • The mood in “Scaffolding” was hopeful.
  • The mood in “Annabel Lee” was solemn, sad, and depressing.
  • What was the mood of “Childhood”?
    • Reminiscent, happy, energetic, upbeat, etc.
Speaker

• Definition: the voice that “talks” to the reader, similar to the narrator in fiction

• Examples:
  • The speaker in “Scaffolding” is someone in a lovely relationship
  • The speaker in “Annabel Lee” is the person in love with Annabel Lee
  • Who is the speaker in “Tamara’s Opus”?
    • Tamara’s brother, Josh Bennett
Imagery

• Definition: words or phrases that appeal to a reader’s five senses

• Examples:
  
  • Look- The sun paints the desert with its gold.
  • Feel- The teddy bear felt as soft as velvet.
  • Sound- Sara’s loud scream pierced the hallways like a fire alarm.
  • Taste- The tangy, juicy lemon was used in the tart pie.
  • Smell- The sewer smelled of rotten eggs.
Rhyme Scheme

• Definition: the pattern of end rhymes in a poem; rhyme scheme is noted by assigning a letter of the alphabet, beginning with a, to each line

• Example:
  • It was many and many a year ago
    In a kingdom by the sea,
    That a maiden there lived whom you may know
    By the name of Annabel Lee;
Definition: a technique in which a sound, word, phrase, or line is repeated for emphasis or unity

Examples:

- Cannon to the right of them/ Cannon to the left of them/ Cannon in front of them
- How thin and sharp is the moon tonight
  How thin and sharp and ghostly white
**Inference**

- **Definition:** A technique to better understand poetry by making a logical guess about images and figurative language in a poem.

- **Example:**
  - "Sleeping in the Forest"
  - **LINE:** I slept/ as never before, a stone/ on the riverbed.
  - **I KNOW:** The speaker compares herself to a stone. Stones are completely still.
  - **INFERENCES:** The speaker slept soundly, without moving.
Connotation

- Definition: the ideas and feelings associated with the word, as opposed to its dictionary definition; connotation can be either negative or positive

- Example:
  - The word “mother” has the connotation of love, warmth, and security.
  - Heather was very skinny. (negative connotation)
  - Heather was very slender. (positive connotation)
Free Verse Poem

• Definition: poetry without regular patterns of rhyme and rhythm; some poets use free verse to capture the sounds and rhythms of ordinary speech

• Examples:
  • “Childhood”
  • “Sleeping in the Forest”
  • “Black Hole Brain”
  • “Under the Back Porch”
  • “Names”
Standard/Traditional Poem

• Definition: poems that follow fixed rules; for instance, they might have a certain number of lines or a repeating pattern of rhythm or rhyme

• Examples:
  • “A Minor Bird”
  • “Scaffolding”
  • Limericks
  • Haikus
Types of Poems

• Lyric Poems

• Characteristics:
  • presents the feelings and personal thoughts of a single speaker
  • varies in form
  • covers many subjects from love to death to everyday events

• Examples:
  • “Tarama’s Opus”
  • “Sleeping in the Forest”
Types of Poems continued

• Haikus

• Characteristics:
  • Japanese poetry
  • consists of 17 syllables arranged in three lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables
  • strict rules to follow (traditional poem)
  • poets conveys a strong emotional response
  • centers on a symbol that instantly reminds its readers of a season

• Examples:
  • “Two Haiku” by Bashō
Types of Poems continued

• Limericks

  • Characteristics:
    • humorous poem
    • composed of 5 lines with the rhyme scheme **aabba**
    • has a sing-song rhythm

  • Example:
    • “There was an old man with a beard
      Who said, "it’s just how I feared!
      Two owls and a hen
      Four larks and a wren
      Have all built their nests in my beard.”

    - Anonymous -
Types of Poems continued

• Humorous Poems
  • Characteristics:
    • sound devices that make the poem fun to read aloud
    • descriptions that are exaggerated for comic effect
    • elements of fantasy that sweep readers into another world
  • Examples:
    • “Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout Would Not Take the Garbage Out”
    • Limericks
    • “Jabberwocky”
Types of Poems continued

• Narrative Poems
  • Characteristics:
    • Tells a story
    • Contains elements of fiction: characters, setting, and plot
    • Contains elements of poetry: rhyme, rhythm, imagery, and figurative language
  • Examples:
    • “Annabel Lee”
    • “The Highwayman”
Types of Sentences

- Exclamatory: An **exclamatory** sentence shows strong feeling and ends with an exclamation point.
  - Example: I can’t believe you did that!

- Interrogative: An **interrogative** sentence asks a question and ends with a question mark.
  - Example: Which way did the ice cream truck go?
**Types of Sentences**

- **Declarative:** A *declarative* sentence makes a statement and ends with a period.
  - Example: The dog wore a blue collar.

- **Imperative:** An *imperative* sentence makes a request or gives a command and usually ends with a period or exclamation point.
  - Example: “John, take out the trash.” Mom said.
    
    OR

    “John, take out the trash!” Mom said.
Passive vs. Active Voice

- Passive Voice: In a sentence that uses the **passive voice**, the subject of the sentence **receives** the verb’s action.
  - Example: The Light Brigade will be remembered **by the world**.

- Active Voice: In a sentence that uses the **active voice**, the subject **performs** the verb’s action.
  - Example: The world will remember the Light Brigade.
Transitional Words

- Definition: words that allow the reader to flow more smoothly from one point to the next; to show the sequence or order of events

- Examples:
  - Again, moreover, as well as, first, second, third, furthermore, similarly, in contrast, after all, nevertheless, however, since, in order to, in other words, especially, as a result of, in conclusion, etc.

- Refer to your list of transitional words/phrases