

POEM ANALYZING

“Still I Rise”

Who wrote it?

- She is black woman with 80 years of life spent.
- Other than being a poet, she was also a playwright, actor, and author.
- She has have been active in participating Social Rights Movement.
- Her great grandmother, Mary Lee, was a slave and was physically and mentally harassed by her slave owner.
- Harsh early life with raping, death, and separation.
- At the age of 16, introduced to the world of literature.

Her name is...
Maya Angelou!



Poetic Devices!

In this poem... the main seven poetic devices used are:

- **REPETITION**
- **RHYME**
- **SYMBOLISM**
- **IMAGERY**
- **HYPERBOLE**
- **METAPHOR**
- **RHETORICAL QUESTION**

Repetition

- Repeating word, stanza, phrase, sound, syllable, sentence, or line
- Same things over and over throughout the poetry



Example#1

·You may write me down in history

·With your bitter, twisted lies,

·You may trod me in the very dirt

·But still, like dust, I'll rise.

·Just like moons and like suns,

·With the certainty of tides,

·Just like hopes springing high,

·Still I'll rise.

·You may shoot me with your words,

·You may cut me with your eyes,

·You may kill me with your hatefulness,

·But still, like air, I'll rise.

- ★ Throughout the poem, the poet continues to use “still...I’ll rise.”
- ★ This is a repetition because it is using the same phrase over and over.
- ★ This tells us that no matter what happens, “I” will always rise.
- ★ Emphasize how much hope and confidence she has despite the hardships

“
Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors
gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the
slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise.”

Example#2

- ★ Throughout the poem, the poet repeats the word, “I rise”
- ★ This is a repetition because it is using the same phrase over and over.
- ★ This repetition is emphasizing “I rise”, therefore, giving the reader the importance of standing up again and trying over and over.

Rhyme

- Usually placed in the end of each line
- correspondence of sound between words or the ending part of words
- gives the reader clues of the meaning of the poem

QuickTime™ and a
DV/DVCPRO - NTSC decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Example#1

“You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.”

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,

Just like hopes springing high,

Still I'll rise.”

★ If read carefully, you can easily find whether it is a rhyme or not.

ex) lies & rise
gloom & room
tides & rise
eyes & cries
hard & yard
eyes & rise

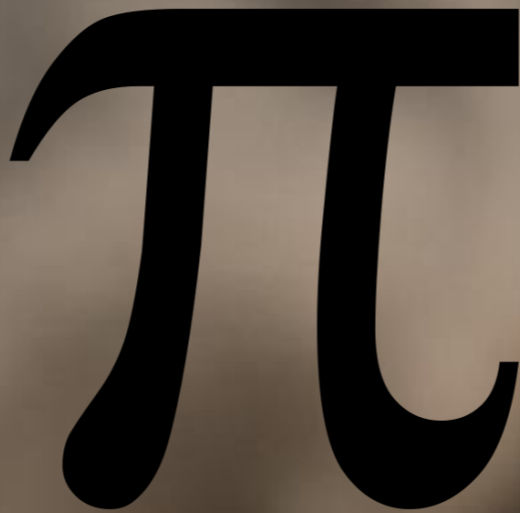
Symbolism

- An object or an action that stands more than itself, representing something beyond



Peace

Pi



Example#1

“

Out of the huts of history's
shame

I rise

Up from a past that's rooted
in pain

I rise

I'm a black ocean, leaping
and wide,

Welling and swelling I bear
in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of
terror and fear

I rise

”

★ “I rise”

★ Rise originally means to move
upward or to stand up.

★ In the text, this word shows that no
matter how down you might feel, you
can always stand up again and get
back on the road.

Example #2

“

Does my sassiness upset
you?

Why are you beset with
gloom?

'Cause I walk like I've got
oil wells

Pumping in my living room

”

★ “I’ve got oil wells pumping in my
living room”

★ Oil wells are very valuable ->
rich

★ Represents confidence the poet
has in herself

Imagery

- Visually descriptive about a scene
- Purpose: create vivid image of descriptions



“All the sun long it was running, it was
lovely, the hay
Fields high as the house, the tunes
from the chimneys, it was air
And playing, lovely and watery
And fire green as grass.
And nightly under the simple stars”

Fern Hill, Dylan Thomas

Example#1

“

Does my sassiness upset
you?

Why are you beset with
gloom?

'Cause I walk like I've got
oil wells

Pumping in my living room

”

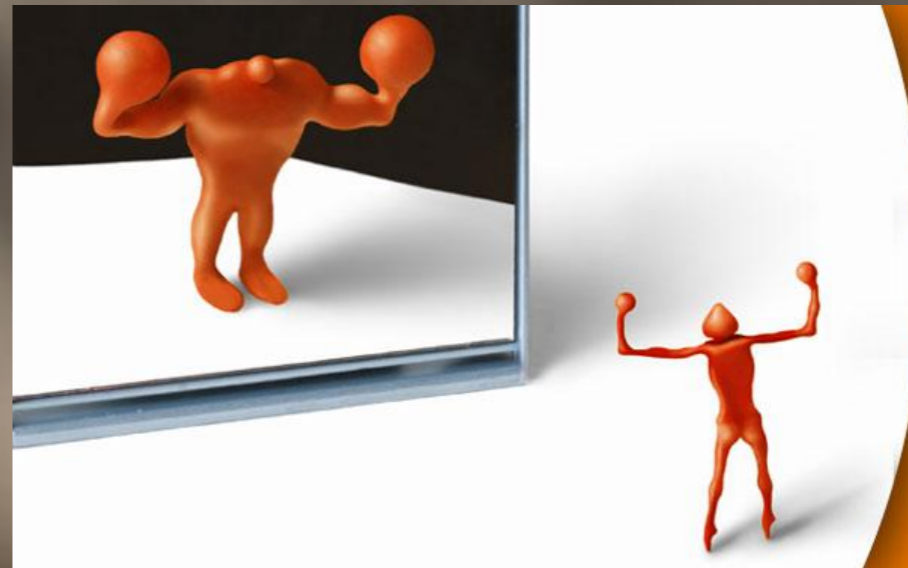
★ “I’ve got oil wells pumping in my
living room”

★ Oil wells are very valuable ->
rich

★ Represents confidence the poet
has in herself

Hyperbole

- exaggerated statements or claims
- not meant to be taken literally
- used for emphasizing



Example #1

“

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

”

- ★ The poet mentioned shooting, cutting, and killing and related to words , eyes, and hatefulness.
- ★ Used these powerful words to describe how brutal “you” were treating “me” and how “I” still endure it.
- ★ emphasize the brutal treatment

Metaphor

- A word or a phrase that is applied to an object or an action using “is”
- Directly compares two objects that seems unrelated

A is B



Example#1

“

I'm a black ocean,
leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I
bear in the tide.

”

- ★ The poet is comparing “me” and “black ocean”
- ★ Just like how the black ocean is full of fear and terror, “I” spent her life enduring all the rough times.



Rhetorical Question

- A question asked for an effect that doesn't require an answer.

Why me, Lord?

Why are you so stupid?

What is the matter with you?



Example#1

- ★ The following five questions shows the poet's agony towards "you".
- ★ It sounds like the poet is asking if "you" are jealous of her or not.
- ★ The question adds more emotions in each stanza. It adds more effect.

“

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?

.
.
.

Did you want to see me broken?

.
.
.

Does my haughtiness offend you?

;
.

Does my sexiness upset you?

”

What's the message?

- Although the author is living in a tough age for black women, she is able to endure them by her great confidence and hope.
- From her poem, we can learn that no matter what situation you are in, there's always hope.

