

POETRY

Roses are red

Violets are blue

Believe it or not

Poetry is all around you

1. What is poetry? _____

2. Name at least 5 different types of poetry. _____

3. Name at least 5 different devices or techniques that poets use to express their ideas. _____

4. Name some poets. _____
5. Do all poems have to rhyme? _____
6. Which poems do you remember from your *nursery* school or kindergarten days?

7. Songs can also be thought of as poems. Is there a song that you can think of that is important to you because of the words as much as the music? _____
If yes, which one? _____

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Name _____

Homeroom _____

Figurative language is a tool that an author employs (or uses) to help the reader visualize (or see) what is happening in a story or poem. Some common types of figurative language are: metaphor, simile, alliteration, onomatopoeia, idiom, puns, and sensory language.

Metaphor and Simile

Metaphor

A **metaphor** states that one thing is something else. It is a comparison, but it does NOT use like or as to make the comparison.

For example: Her hair is silk. The sentence is comparing (or stating) that hair is silk.

How To Eat a Poem

Eve Merriam

Don't be polite.

Bite in.

Pick it up with your fingers and lick the juice that
may run down your chin.

It is ready and ripe now, whenever you are.

You do not need a knife or fork or spoon
or plate or napkin or tablecloth.

For there is no core
or stem
or rind
or pit
or seed
or skin
to throw away.

Questions

1. What is odd about the title? Why do you think the author writes about eating a poem?

2. What is the poem compared with?

3. What do eating and reading have in common?

4. According to the first verse, in what way should you eat a poem? What details suggest this?

Simile

A **simile** is a comparison using *like* or *as*. It usually compares two dissimilar objects.

For example: *His feet were as big as boats.* We are comparing the size of feet to boats.

1. Using the poem below underline all of the similes. Decide which items are being compared.

Willow and Ginkgo

Eve Merriam

The willow is like an etching,

Fine-lined against the sky.

The ginkgo is like a crude sketch,

Hardly worthy to be signed.

The willow's music is like a soprano,

Delicate and thin.

The ginkgo's tune is like a chorus

With everyone joining in.

The willow is sleek as a velvet-nosed calf;

The ginkgo is leathery as an old bull.

The willow's branches are like silken thread;

The ginkgo's like stubby rough wool.

The willow is like a nymph with streaming hair;

Wherever it grows, there is green and gold and fair.

The willow dips to the water,
Protected and precious, like the king's favorite daughter.

The ginkgo forces its way through gray concrete;
Like a city child, it grows up in the street.

Thrust against the metal sky,
Somehow it survives and even thrives.

My eyes feast upon the willow,
But my heart goes to the ginkgo.

Identifying Similes and Metaphors

Poetry Worksheet #1

Decide whether each sentence contains a simile or a metaphor. Write the word SIMILE if the sentence contains a simile. Write the word METAPHOR if the sentence contains a metaphor.

1. The baby was like an octopus, grabbing at all the cans on the grocery store shelves.

2. As the teacher entered the room she muttered under her breath, "This class is like a three-ring circus!"

3. The giant's steps were thunder as he ran toward Jack.

4. The pillow was a cloud when I put my head upon it after a long day.

5. I feel like a limp dishrag.

6. Those girls are like two peas in a pod.

7. The fluorescent light was the sun during our test.

8. No one invites Harold to parties because he's a wet blanket.

9. The bar of soap was a slippery eel during the dog's bath.

10. Ted was as nervous as a cat with a long tail in a room full of rocking chairs.

Identifying the Words and Meaning of Metaphors and Simile

Poetry Worksheet #2

For each question, write down what two things are being compared.

1. The baby was like an octopus, grabbing at all the cans on the grocery store shelves.

2. As the teacher entered the room she muttered under her breath, "This class is like a three-ring circus!"

3. The giant's steps were thunder as he ran toward Jack.

4. The pillow was a cloud when I put my head upon it after a long day.

5. I feel like a limp dishrag.

6. Those girls are like two peas in a pod.

7. The fluorescent light was the sun during our test.

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Poetry Terms

Rhyme

The occurrence of the same or similar sounds at the end of two or more words.

Example: _____

Personification

A figure of speech in which nonhuman things or abstract ideas are given human attributes: *the sky is crying, dead leaves danced in the wind, blind justice.*

Example: _____

Simile

A figure of speech in which two things are compared using the word "like" or "as." An example of a simile using *like* occurs in Langston Hughes's poem *Harlem*: "What happens to a dream deferred?/ Does it dry up/ like a raisin in the sun?"

Example: _____

Metaphor

A figure of speech in which two things are compared, usually by saying one thing is another, or by substituting a more descriptive word for the more common or usual word that would be expected. Some examples of metaphors: *the world's a stage, he was a lion in battle, drowning in debt, and a sea of troubles.*

Example: _____

Hyperbole

A figure of speech in which deliberate exaggeration is used for emphasis. Many everyday expressions are examples of hyperbole: *tons of money, waiting for ages, a flood of tears*, etc. Hyperbole is the opposite of litotes.

Example: _____



Onomatopoeia

A figure of speech in which words are used to imitate sounds. Examples of onomatopoeic words are *buzz*, *hiss*, *zing*, *clippety-clop*, *cock-a-doodle-do*, *pop*, *splat*, *thump*, and *tick-tock*.

Example: _____

Alliteration

The repetition of the same or similar sounds at the beginning of words. Some famous examples of alliteration are tongue twisters such as *She sells seashells by the seashore* and *Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers*.

Example: _____

Repetition

The repeating of words, phrases, lines, or stanzas.



Example: _____

Rhyme Scheme

The sequence in which the rhyme occurs. The first end sound is represented as the letter "a", the second is "b", etc.

Example: _____

Imagery

Words or phrases that appeal to any sense or any combination of senses.

Example: _____


Theme

The theme is the point a writer is trying to make about a subject. The theme of the poem tells what the whole poem is about.

Example: _____



Rhythm



The pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line of verse or (less often) prose.

Example: _____

Oxymoron

A statement with two parts which seem contradictory; examples: sad joy, a wise fool, the sound of silence, or Hamlet's saying, "I must be cruel only to be kind"

Example: _____

