Figurative Language Poem 1

Sketch
By Carl Sandburg

1. The shadows of the ships
2. Rock on the crest
3. In the low blue lustre
4. Of the tardy and the soft inrolling tide.

5. A long brown bar at the dip of the sky
6. Puts an arm of sand in the span of salt.

7. The lucid and endless wrinkles
8. Draw in, lapse and withdraw.
9. Wavelets crumble and white spent bubbles
10. Wash on the floor of the beach.

11. Rocking on the crest
12. In the low blue lustre
13. Are the shadows of the ships.

Review Questions

Directions: Respond to these questions to the best of your ability. Answer the questions completely. If you need more space, use the back or a separate sheet.

1. Identify an example of personification: explain what is being personified how.

   - Tide is "tardy", "arm of salt", "waves as wrinkles"

2. Identify an example of hyperbole: explain how it is exaggerated.

   - Waves = endless wrinkles

3. Identify an example of metaphor: explain which two things are being compared.

   - Ocean = "span of salt"; waves = something that crumbles

4. Find two separate examples of alliteration. List the alliterative words.

   - Shadows, ships; brown, bar; sand, span, salt; wavelets, white

5. Where is repetition used in this poem? Why do you think that it is used this way?

   - First/last 3 lines in different order; recurring sound of tide or reflection of water

6. What action is described in the third stanza of the poem?

   - Tide rolling in and out

7. How is imagery used in this poem? What is described?

   - Visual - boats and tides rolling in/out & a sand bar

8. What is the mood of this poem? How does it make you feel?

   - Calm, peaceful, tranquil
Figurative Language Poem 2

I Sing the Battle
By Harry Kemp

I SING the song of the great clean guns that belch forth death at will.
"Ah, but the wailing mothers, the lifeless forms and still!"

I sing the song of the billowing flags, the bugles that cry before.
"Ah, but the skeletons flapping rags, the lips that speak no more!"

I sing the clash of bayonets, of sabres that flash and cleave.
"And wilt thou sing the maimed ones, too, that go with pinnedup sleeve?"

I sing acclaimed generals that bring the victory home.
"Ah, but the broken bodies that drip like honey-comb!"

I sing of hosts triumphant, long ranks of marching men.
"And wilt thou sing the shadowy hosts that never march again?"

Review Questions

Directions: Respond to these questions to the best of your ability. Answer the questions completely. If you need more space, use the back or a separate sheet.

1. Identify two examples of personification: explain what is being personified how.

2. Identify an example of simile: explain which two things are being compared.

3. Identify an example of metaphor: explain which two things are being compared.

4. Find an example of alliteration. List the alliterative words.

5. Why is every other line contained in quotation marks? What is the effect of this technique?

6. In the third stanza of the poem, the speaker references “pinnedup sleeves”: why would someone pin their sleeves? To what is the speaker referring and how do you know? Use evidence from the text.

7. What is the mood of this poem? How does it make you feel and why does it make you feel this way?

8. What is the thematic message of this poem? In other words, what lesson is the author attempting to express with this poem? Explain your answer.
Figurative Language Poem 3

From The Grave
By Robert Blair

Dull Grave!—thou spoil'st the dance of youthful blood,
Strik'st out the dimple from the cheek of mirth,
And every smirking feature from the face;
Branding our laughter with the name of madness.
Where are the jesters now? the men of health
Complexionally pleasant? Where the droll,
Whose every look and gesture was a joke
To clapping theatres and shouting crowds,
And made even thick-lipp'd musing Melancholy
To gather up her face into a smile
Before she was aware? Ah! sullen now,
And dumb as the green turf that covers them.

Review Questions

Directions: Respond to these questions to the best of your ability. Answer the questions completely. If you need more space, use the back or a separate sheet.

1. Identify two examples of personification: explain what is being personified & how in each example.

2. Identify an example of hyperbole: explain how it is exaggerated.

3. Identify an example of metaphor: explain which two things are being compared.

4. Identify and example of simile: explain which two things are being compared.

5. What is the tone of this poem? How does the speaker feel about the subject(s) of the poem? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

6. In line four of the poem, the speaker says that “[the Dull Grave brands] our laughter with the name of madness.” What does the speaker mean by this line? Explain your answer.

7. What is the thematic message of the poem? In other words, what lesson is the author attempting to express with this poem?
Figurative Language Poem 4

The Dawn’s Awake
By Otto Leland Bohanan

1. The Dawn’s awake!
2. A flash of smoldering flame and fire - imagery
3. Ignites the East. Then, higher, higher,
4. O'er all the sky so gray, forlorn,
5. The torch of gold is borne. - pers.
6. The Dawn’s awake! - pers.
7. The dawn of a thousand dreams and thrills - hyperbole
8. And music singing in the hills - pers.
9. A paean of eternal spring
10. Voices the new awakening
11. The Dawn’s awake!
12. Whispers of pent-up harmonies,
13. With the mingled fragrance of the trees;
14. Faint snatches of half-forgotten song--
15. Fathers! torn and numb,--
16. The boon of light we craved, awaited long,
17. Has come, has come!

Review Questions

Directions: Respond to these questions to the best of your ability. Answer the questions completely. If you need more space, use the back or a separate sheet.

1. Identify two examples of personification: explain what is being personified & how in each example.

2. Identify an example of hyperbole: explain how it is exaggerated.

3. Identify an example of metaphor: explain which two things are being compared.

4. Find three examples of imagery in the poem that access three different senses. Explain which senses are called on by the speaker for each example.

5. Contrast the tone of this line “Fathers! torn and numb,” with the tone of the rest of the poem. How is this line different and why do you think that it is?

6. This poem was written by an African American poet during the Harlem Renaissance. Knowing this, how might one interpret the “Dawn” beyond its literal meaning? What might the “Dawn” represent?
Figurative Language Poem 5

Sleep
By Annie Matheson

1. SOFT silence of the summer night!
2. Alive with wistful murmurs.
3. Enfold me in thy quiet might:
4. Shake o'er my head thy slumb'rous wings,
5. So cool and light:
6. Let me forget all earthly things
7. In sleep to-night!

8. Tired roses, passionately sweet,
9. Are leaning on their cool green leaves,
10. The mignonette 'bout my feet
11. A maze of tangled fragrance weaves,
12. Where dewdrops meet:
13. Kind sleep the weary world bereaves

15. White lilies, pure as falling snow;
16. And redolent of tenderness,
17. Are gently swaying to and fro,
18. Lulled by the breath of evening less
19. Than by the low
20. Music of sleepy winds, that bless
21. The buds that grow.

22. The air is like a mother's hand
23. Laid softly on a throbbing brow,
24. And o'er the darksome, dewy land
25. The peace of heaven is stealing now.
26. While, hand in hand,
27. Young angels tell the flowers how
28. Their lives are planned.

29. From yon deep sky the quiet stars
30. Look down with steadfast eloquence,
31. And God the prison-door unbars
32. That held the mute world's inmost sense
33. From all the wars
34. Of day's loud hurry and turbulence;
35. And nothing now the silence mars
36. Of love intense.

1. A plant with spikes of small fragrant flowers
2. Stronger reminiscent or suggestive of something

Review Questions
Directions: Respond to these questions to the best of your ability. Answer the questions completely. If you need more space, use the back or a separate sheet.

1. Identify three examples of personification: explain each example.
   line 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 13, 18, 25, 29, 32

2. Identify two examples of simile: explain which two things are being compared in each simile.
   15, 22

3. Identify two examples of metaphor: explain which two things are being compared.
   4 - nightfall to something that flies
   17 & 20 - wind = music
   31 - waking/consciousness = closed prison door

4. What is the mood of this poem? How does this poem make you feel? Refer to text in your response.
   calm, peaceful, relaxed

5. What is the subject of this poem? What is it about? Explain your response.
   summer night descending over the land

6. What is the tone of this poem? How does the speaker treat the subject of the poem? Refer to text.
   reverent of the beauty of nature and speaks highly of the natural world
Figurative Language Poem 7

A Lady
By Amy Lowell

1. You are beautiful and faded.
2. Like an old opera tune
3. Played upon a harpsichord;
4. Or like the sun-flooded silks
5. Of an eighteenth-century boudoir.
6. In your eyes
7. Smoulder the fallen roses of outlived minutes,
8. And the perfume of your soul
9. Is vague and suffusing,
10. With the pungence of sealed spice-jars.
11. Your half-tones delight me,
12. And I grow mad with gazing.
13. At your blent colors.
14. My vigor is a new-minted penny,
15. Which I cast at your feet.
16. Gather it up from the dust,
17. That its sparkle may amuse you.

1. A woman's bedroom or private room
2. Gradually spread through or over
3. Physical strength and good health.

Review Questions

Directions: Respond to these questions to the best of your ability. Answer the questions completely. If you need more space, use the back or a separate sheet.

1. Identify two examples of simile: explain which two things are being compared in each simile.
   - lines 1 & 2
   - lines 4 & 5
   
   lady → opera tune
   lady → silks / 18th century boudoir

2. Identify two examples of metaphor: explain which two things are being compared in each metaphor.
   - lines 6 & 7 → passing time = fallen roses
   - lines 8-10 → pungence of sealed jars to soul
   - line 14 → speaker's vigor to a penny

3. Identify one example of personification: explain what is being personified and how.
   - lines 8-10 - souls don't wear perfume
   - line 7 - outlived minutes

4. Identify one example of hyperbole: explain what is being exaggerated.
   - lines 12 & 13 - exaggerating the effects of staring at the woman

5. What is the subject of this poem? What is this poem about? Explain your response.
   - a vigorous young woman staring at an old lady

6. What is the tone of this poem? How does the speaker treat the subject of the poem? Refer to text.
   - intrigued

7. What is the mood of this poem? How does this poem make you feel? Refer to text in your response.
   - grateful - creepy (answers will vary)