

Figurative Language is language that communicates meanings beyond the literal meanings of words. In figurative language, words are often used to represent ideas and concepts they would not otherwise be associated with. Poets use figurative language to make interesting comparisons and to help readers see subjects in a new light.

Personification	Metaphor
<p>Authors use personification to give human qualities to an object, animal, or idea. For example, an author might describe what a beach looks like during a storm by giving the sea human qualities:</p> <p><i>“The angry sea took hungry bites from the shore.”</i></p>	<p>Authors use metaphors to compare two things that are basically unlike but have something in common. Unlike similes, metaphors do not use words like <i>like</i> or <i>as</i>. The author describing the storm might instead use a metaphor:</p> <p><i>“The sea was a wild animal attacking the shore.”</i></p> <p>An extended metaphor is a longer metaphor that continues the comparison at length, even throughout the entire poem or literary work.</p>

Sound Devices

In the poems that follow, the poets use rhyme and other sound devices to convey rhythm and meaning.

- **Alliteration:** Repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words
 - The snake slithered across the smooth sand
 - You clinking, clanking, clattering, clollection of cliginous junk
- **Assonance:** The repetition of **vowel sounds** in words.
 - The ain in Spain falls mainly on the plain
 - She tried to creep past the sleeping geeks.
- **Consonance:** The repetition of **consonant sounds** within, and at the end of words.
 - Hold your nose ‘cause here goes the cold water
 - There came a tapping, as of some gently rapping-rapping on my chamber door
- **Repetition:** A sound, word, phrase, or line that is repeated.
 - I loved her, and sometimes she loved me too. She loved me, sometimes I loved her too.
 - Oh, her eyes, her eyes make the stars look like they’re not shining

Line Breaks

- **End stopped** lines of poetry end at a normal speech pause. This emphasizes the line endings and makes a reader view each line as a complete unit of meaning.
- **Enjamed lines** run on without a natural pause. This can create a tension and momentum until the thought is complete.

Realization's and Advice

Thumbprint by Eve Merriam

In the heel of my thumb
are whorls, whirls, wheels
in a unique design:
mine alone.

What treasure to own! 5
My own flesh, my own feelings.
No other, however grand or base,
can ever contain the same.

My signature, 10
thumbing the pages of my time.
My universe key,
my singularity.

Impress, implant, 15
I am myself,
of all my atom parts I am the sum.
And out of my blood and brain
I make my own interior weather,
My own sun and rain.
Imprint my mark upon the world,
Whatever I shall become. 20

Vocabulary to know:

Whorls n. circular ridges that form the pattern of fingerprints.

Singularity n. unique or distinct feature.

1. Is this a traditional or organic poem? Why?

2. Find examples of alliteration, assonance, consonance, and repetition

Alliteration	
Assonance	
Consonance	
Repetition	

3. What does the unique design of the speaker's thumb represent?

6. Write a paraphrase of the poem. A paraphrase is not a summary, but rather a "translation" of the poem in your own words.

4. In the poem Eva compares her thumbprint to a number of things. What type of figurative language is this and what are some of these things?

5. Eva writes, "I make my own interior weather, my own sun and rain." Interpret these lines. What does she mean?

7. What is the theme of the poem?

Name

Date

Hour

Excerpt from Song of the Open Road by Walt Whitman

Afoot and light-hearted I take to the open road,
Healthy, free, the world before me,
The long brown path before me leading wherever I choose

Henceforth I ask not good-fortune, I myself am good-fortune,
Henceforth I whimper no more, postpone no more, need nothing,
Done with indoor complaints, libraries, querulous criticisms,
Strong and content I travel the open road

Vocabulary to know:
Henceforth adv. From this time forward.
Indoor complaints: Illness caused by lack of fresh air and outdoor exercise.
Querulous adj. Complaining; grumbling.

1. Find an example of assonance, consonance, and repetition.

Assonance	
Consonance	
Repetition	

2. What is the road a metaphor for?

3. What kind of person do you think the speaker is?

5. What kind of change do you think the speaker has decided to make in his or her life?

6. What is the theme of the poem? What's so great about the open road?

The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost

Two Roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
5 To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
10 Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubt it if I should ever come back 15

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence;
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I--
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference 20

1. Is this a traditional or organic poem? What's the rhyme scheme?

3. What is the difference between the two roads, if any?

2. What do you think the fork could represent in the speaker's life?

4. Do you think the speaker is happy with his choices or not? Why? What might tell you?

5. What does the speaker mean when he says that he doubts if he should ever come back?

6. What type of choices do you think this fork in the road represents to you?

7. If you had to create an extended metaphor for one of your major life decisions, what would you choose?

Desiderata by Max Ehrmann

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.
As far as possible without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.
Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others,
even the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit.
If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter;
for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.
Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble;
it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.
Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery.
But let this not blind you to what virtue there is;
many persons strive for high ideals;
and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love;
for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.
Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.
Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.
But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.
Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.
You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars;
you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be,

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and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life
keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,
it is still a beautiful world.

Be cheerful.

Strive to be happy.

1. Find examples of figurative language: Hyperbole, simile, personification, and/or metaphor.

Figurative Language	Example

2. Find examples of sound devices: Alliteration, assonance, consonance, and/or repetition.

Sound Device	Example

3. This poem is full of advice and aphorisms. Write down five recommendations from the poem that you find to be important and explain why you think it's important to know these.

Example	Explanation

Write a poem using the “What I know for sure” list you made of things you know for sure about life. Each line should start with: **I know for sure**...with one of the things you believe to be true, followed by figurative language: simile, metaphor, personification, and/or hyperbole. For example:
I know for sure your friends will let you down, but forgive them like a forest forgives a fire.
I know for sure it's the little things in life that sometimes end up being the most important like how the first snow brings with her childish joy.