

Ms. May

English 1:2

April 1st

Literary Analysis: Figurative Language

Figurative language is language that is used imaginatively rather than literally, which can significantly impact the tone, mood, and theme of a poem. Figurative language includes one or more **figures of speech**, literary devices that make unexpected comparisons or change the usual meaning of words. The following are specific types of figures of speech:

- **Simile:** a comparison of two apparently unlike things using *like*, *as*, *than*, or *resembles*: "The morning sun is like a red rubber ball."
- **Metaphor:** a description of one thing as if it were another: "The morning sun is a red rubber ball."
- **Personification:** assignment of human characteristics to a non-human subject: "The sea was angry that day, my friends."
- **Paradox:** a statement, an idea, or a situation that seems contradictory but actually expresses a truth: "The more things change, the more they stay the same."

Using the Strategy: Figurative Language Chart

Use a **figurative language chart** like the one shown to record examples of each type of figurative language you find as you read the poems that follow.

Example	Type	Meaning or Effect
Her eyes are like diamonds.	Simile	The simile stresses the beauty and sparkle of the woman's eyes.

Reading Skill: Read Fluently

Reading fluently is reading smoothly and continuously while also comprehending the text and appreciating the writer's artistry. Line length is an important element of poetry, but punctuation can clarify meaning. To improve your fluency when reading poetry, **read in sentences or units of meaning**. Use punctuation rather than the ends of lines to determine where to pause or stop reading.

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How does *communication* change us?

Writing About the Big Question

The poets in this collection communicate ideas that help us think about the world in new ways. Use this sentence starter to develop your ideas about the Big Question.

When the speaker of a poem asks the audience to **respond** to a question, the reader is pushed to _____ and _____.

While You Read Think about what idea or ideas the speaker of each poem is sharing with us. Then, decide how you would respond to any questions the poetry raises.

Vocabulary

Read each word and its definition. Decide whether you know the word well, know it a little bit, or do not know it at all. After you read, see how your knowledge of each word has increased.

- **deferred** (dē fərd') *adj.* put off until a future time (p. 620) *Jackie deferred her trip to Italy until she had more money.* defer *v.* deferring *v.* deferral *n.* deference *n.*
- **fester** (fes' tər) *v.* become infected; form pus (p. 620) *The wound became infected and began to fester.* festering *adj.*
- **barren** (bar' ən) *adj.* empty; having little or no vegetation (p. 621) *The hillside was barren after the fire.* barrenness *n.*
- **paradoxical** (par' ə dāk' si kəl) *adj.* seemingly full of contradictions (p. 623) *I think it is paradoxical that people in cities could be lonely.* paradox *n.*
- **pensive** (pen' siv) *adj.* deeply or seriously thoughtful (p. 628) *Everyone remembered the professor as a quiet and pensive man.* pensively *adv.* pensiveness *n.*
- **solitude** (säl' ə tōd') *n.* the state of being solitary, or alone; seclusion, isolation, or remoteness (p. 628) *I enjoy a quiet moment of solitude before the guests arrive.* solitary *adj.* sole *adj.*



Word Study

The Latin root **-fer-** means "bring" or "carry."

The first poem in Poetry Collection 1 is about a dream that has been **deferred**—the dream may have been carried away, or put off until future time.

Meet the Authors

Langston Hughes

(1902–1967)

Author of “Dream Deferred” • “Dreams” (pp. 620, 621)

Born in Joplin, Missouri, Langston Hughes was the first African American to earn a living by writing literary works. As a young man, he held a variety of jobs—teacher, ranch hand, and farmer, among others. He drew on all of these experiences, but primarily on his perspective as an African American, to create his great body of work.

Jean de Sponde

(1557–1595)

Author of “Sonnet on Love XIII” (p. 622)

The French poet Jean de Sponde was a true Renaissance man who served in the court of King Henry IV, dabbled in chemistry, and published scholarly editions of ancient Greek texts. “Sonnet on Love XIII” is part of his finest work, *Sonnets of Love and Death*.

Gabriela Mistral

(1889–1957)

Author of “Meciendo/Rocking” (p. 624)

Born in Chile as Lucila Godoy y Alcayaga, this writer formed her pen name from the names of her two favorite poets, the Italian Gabriele D’Annunzio and the French Frederic Mistral. Gabriela Mistral wrote many moving poems about children and motherhood. She was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1945.

William Wordsworth

(1770–1850)

Author of “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” (p. 626)

William Wordsworth was born in England’s rural Lake District. In 1798, he and fellow poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge published *Lyrical Ballads*—poems that use simple language to exalt everyday life. Emphasizing nature and the imagination, Wordsworth ushered in the age of Romanticism.



Street Shadows, 1959, Jacob Lawrence. © ARS, NY/ Photo courtesy of: The Jacob and Gwendolyn Lawrence Foundation / Art Resource, NY

DREAM *Deferred*

Langston Hughes

▲ Critical Viewing

Does the context of this poem make the image above seem hopeless or hopeful? Explain. **[Interpret]**

Vocabulary

deferred (dē fər'd')
adj. put off until
a future time

fester (fes' tər) *v.*
become infected;
form pus

Harlem

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?

5 Or fester like a sore—

And then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat?

Or crust and sugar over—

like a syrupy sweet?

10 Maybe it just sags

like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

Dreams

Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

Reading Skill
Read Fluently
How many sentences
are in the first stanza?

Vocabulary
barren (bar' ən) *adj.*
empty; having little
or no vegetation



Sonnet on Love XIII

Jean de Sponde
translated by David R. Slavitt

Background Archimedes (är' kə mē' dēz') (287?–212 B.C.) has been called the founder of theoretical mechanics. He was a brilliant Greek mathematician and inventor who once boasted that, given a place to stand in space and a long enough lever, he could move the Earth itself. Legend has it that when he made a great discovery, he jumped up and shouted "Eureka!" ("I have found it!").

"Give me a place to stand," Archimedes said,
"and I can move the world." Paradoxical, clever,
his remark which first explained the use of the lever
was an academic joke. But if that dead

sage could return to life, he would find a clear
demonstration of his idea, which is not
pure theory after all. That putative¹ spot
exists in the love I feel for you, my dear.

What could be more immovable or stronger?
10 What becomes more and more secure, the longer
it is battered by inconstancy and the stress

we find in our lives? Here is that fine fixed point
from which to move a world that is out of joint,
as he could have done, had he known a love like this.

1. putative (pyūōt' ə tiv) *adj.* supposed; known by reputation.

◀ **Critical Viewing** Based on this depiction of Archimedes, how do you think he would have responded to de Sponde's poem? [**Speculate**]

Vocabulary

paradoxical (par' ə dāk' si kəl) *adj.* seemingly full of contradictions

Reading Skill

Read Fluently

Where does the sentence that starts in line 10 end?



Rocking

Gabriela Mistral

translated by Doris Dana

The sea rocks her thousands of waves.
The sea is divine.
Hearing the loving sea,
I rock my son.

5 The wind wandering by night
rocks the wheat.
Hearing the loving wind,
I rock my son.

10 God, the Father, soundlessly rocks
His thousands of worlds.
Feeling His hand in the shadow,
I rock my son.

Literary Analysis

Figurative Language

What human traits does
the wind show in the
second stanza?

I Wandered

*Lonely as
a*

Cloud

William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales¹ and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
5 Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
10 Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.
The waves beside them danced; but they
Outdid the sparkling waves in glee;
15 A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund² company;

Literary Analysis
Figurative Language

To what does the speaker compare the daffodils in the simile in lines 7–8?

1. o'er vales over valleys.
2. jocund (jak' end) *adj.* cheerful.

Vocabulary

pensive (pen' siv)

adj. deeply or seriously thoughtful

solitude (säl' ə tōōd') *n.*

the state of being solitary, or alone; seclusion, isolation, or remoteness

I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in *pensive* mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of *solitude*;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

Critical Thinking

- 1. Respond:** Which of these poems affected you the most? Explain your answer.
- 2. (a)** To what two things does the speaker in "Dreams" compare life? **(b) Interpret:** Restate in your own words the advice that "Dreams" offers.
- 3. (a)** How many questions does "Dream Deferred" ask? Explain. **(b) Contrast:** In what way is the last question different from the others? Explain your response.
- 4. (a)** In "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud," what natural sight does the speaker describe? **(b)** In "Meciendo/Rocking," what natural sights and sounds does the speaker describe? **(c) Compare and Contrast:** How do the natural sights and sounds affect each of the speakers? Explain how each poem reveals this.
- 5. (a) Interpret:** In "Sonnet on Love XIII," to what does the speaker compare his love? **(b) Draw Conclusions:** What does this comparison suggest about the speaker's feelings? Explain your response.



How does communication change us?

- (a)** How would you answer the main question posed by the speaker in "Dream Deferred"? Why? **(b)** How does your response to that question grow or change when you read "Dreams"? Explain.



Literary Analysis: Figurative Language

- (a) Identify one **simile** in "Dream Deferred" and one **metaphor** in "Dreams." (b) Explain what each **figure of speech** contributes to the overall meaning of the poem in which it appears.
- (a) Identify an example of **personification** in Poetry Collection 1. (b) Explain how this use of **figurative language** contributes to the overall effect of the poem in which it appears.
- Identify and explain the **paradox** in "Sonnet on Love XIII."

Reading Skill: Read Fluently

- (a) Using a graphic organizer like the one shown, rewrite one stanza in Poetry Collection 1 as a prose paragraph.

Stanza	Paragraph
God, the Father, soundlessly rocks His thousands of worlds. Feeling His hand in the shadow, I rock my son.	God, the Father, soundlessly rocks His thousands of worlds. Feeling His hand in the shadow, I rock my son.

- (b) Read the stanza and the paragraph aloud. How does following the punctuation help you **read fluently**?

Vocabulary

Practice Vocabulary **analogies** show the relationships between pairs of words. Use a word from the vocabulary list on page 618 to make a word pair that matches the relationship between the first two given words.

- active : exercise :: _____ : ponder
- rainy : weather :: _____ : statement
- empty : full :: _____ : fruitful
- rushed : hurried :: _____ : delayed
- multitude : many :: _____ : one
- burn : blaze :: _____ : rot

Word Study Use the context of the sentences and what you know about the **Latin root -fer-** to explain your answer to each question.

- If you *transfer* something, do you keep it in one place?
- Does a *conference* bring people together?



Word Study

The **Latin root -fer-** means "bring" or "carry."

Challenge Explain how the root **-fer-** contributes to the meanings of these words. Consult a dictionary if necessary.

infer
referral
fertile