

# Elements of Poetry Packet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Part 1: Symbolism and Allegory

A **symbol** is a person, place, or thing that stands for another thing or for an idea.

- ❖ The American flag is a *symbol* of the United States.
- ❖ In a story, a dog might be a *symbol* of friendship or loyalty.

An **allegory** is a story in which all characters and events are symbols.

Each of the following items can be a symbol. For each symbol, select the idea that it most likely stands for.

Symbol	Idea
___ 1. bald eagle	A "Good job!"
___ 2. a thumbs-up	B autumn
___ 3. a fancy white dress with a long veil	C dangerous
___ 4. a red circle with a slanted red line through it	D forbidden
___ 5. a skull with crossed bones beneath it	E freedom
___ 6. a stork carrying a bundle in its beak	AB new baby
___ 7. a pumpkin	BC wedding

For each question, choose the letter of the best answer.

- \_\_\_ 8. In a story about two friends, Sally and Ashley, the friends share a portable CD player. Sally uses it one week, and Ashley uses it the next. Sally and Ashley have an argument. The next day, the CD player breaks. What is the CD player a symbol of?
- A. the girls' friendship    C. the girls' music  
 B. the girls' argument    D. the girls' unhappiness

- \_\_\_ 9. Imagine you read two stories (A and B) with the following traits: In story A, there is one main symbol and many realistic characters. In story B, all of the characters are symbols. Which of the following is true?

- A. Both stories are allegories.  
 B. Neither story is an allegory.  
 C. Story A is an allegory, but story B is not.  
 D. Story B is an allegory, but story A is not.

- \_\_\_ 10. In a story, Sue goes to the city to become an actress. Before she leaves, her mother gives her an old hairbrush. It first belonged to Sue's grandmother, who gave it to Sue's mother. In the city, Sue uses the brush whenever she needs good luck. What is the hairbrush a symbol of?

- A. family love and pride    C. acting  
 B. the grandmother's hair    D. the city

- \_\_\_ 11. In a story, a little boy's grandfather falls ill. The little boy is sad and worried. One day, the boy finds a bird with a broken wing outside his house. He takes the bird inside and helps it heal. A few weeks later, he learns that his grandfather is better. That same day, the bird flies away, its wing fully healed. What is the bird a symbol of?

- A. the boy's worries about his grandfather  
 B. the grandfather's worries about the boy  
 C. the boy's father  
 D. the grandfather's doctor

- \_\_\_ 12. You are reading an allegory. Which of the following do you expect to be true?

- A. None of the characters in the story are symbols.  
 B. Most of the characters in the story are realistic, but one is a symbol.  
 C. All of the characters in the story are symbols.  
 D. There are no symbols in the story.

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. In a story, a young man is in love with a young woman. Every evening, he sits outside her home and plays songs for her on his guitar. She tells him that she likes his music. One day, the young man comes to her home and sees a wedding taking place. The young woman is getting married to another man. The young man goes home and puts his guitar away. He swears he will never play it again. What is the guitar a symbol of?

- A. the young woman's marriage
- B. the young man's life
- C. the young man's love for the young woman
- D. the young woman's love of music

## Part 2: Figurative Language

**Figurative language** is language that is used imaginatively rather than literally.

Figurative language includes one or more figures of speech—literary devices that make unexpected comparisons or change the usual meaning of words.

Some types of figures of speech include the following:

**Simile:** a comparison of two unlike things using *like*, *as*, *than*, or *resembles*

**Metaphor:** a comparison of one thing as if it were another

**Personification:** giving human characteristics to a nonhuman subject

Read each of the following sentences. Decide whether the sentence is using *figurative language* (A) or just *literal language* (B).

A Fig. Lang.	B Lit. Lang.	Sentence
		16. The giraffe nibbled at the leaves on the tree.
		17. Dead on her feet, Marla collapsed onto the worn bus seat, glad her 24-hour shift was finally over.
		18. The tornado played with the car, picking it up in its jaws, then dropping it.
		19. The shark's fin cut the water like a razor slashing silk.
		20. Janice tiptoed through the house, trying not to wake the peacefully sleeping baby.
		21. Nicholas believes that it is unhealthy to be as thin as a pancake.
		22. The busy storekeeper growled at us like an old grizzly bear.
		23. The speaker rumbled and roared, burying his audience in an avalanche of words.
		24. A light breeze blew through the garden, and the fresh scent of flowers drifted into the house.

Each of the following sentences uses a figurative comparison. Read the sentence and then write the letter of the two things being compared.

\_\_\_\_\_ 25. The skin on the farmer's face was as wrinkled, weathered, and worn as the leather on a horse's harness.

- A. farmer—face
- B. farmer—leather
- C. skin—leather

\_\_\_\_\_ 26. Juana's dark eyes swam like fish behind her tinted glasses.

- A. eyes—glasses
- B. eyes—fish
- C. fish—glasses

A Fig. Lang.	B Lit. Lang.	Sentence
		14. Jack's hair and beard are bright blond.
		15. When he heard the scream, claws of fear tore at his scalp.

Each of the following sentences has a figurative comparison. Select the two things being compared. Then, select a point of similarity between the two.

The old deserted movie theater was so musty and foul that it was the same as a sealed tomb opened for the first time in a thousand years.

39. Item 1	40. Item 2	41. Similarity

Item Bank (Each item will be used ONCE.)	
A chain saw	CD park
B city at wintertime	DE really loud noise
C forest	AC musty smell
D snowy, icy conditions	BD snores
E hot dog	CE steak
AB Ice Age	AD great-tasting
BC large area	BE theater
	AE tomb

The snow and ice storm made the city look as if it were part of the Ice Age.

27. Item 1	28. Item 2	29. Similarity

My brother is a great cook; if he fried a hot dog, he could probably make it taste like charcoal-broiled steak.

30. Item 1	31. Item 2	32. Similarity

Uncle Tyrone's snores sound so much like a chainsaw they could probably cut wood.

33. Item 1	34. Item 2	35. Similarity

It was really quite small, but to a three-year-old girl, the park was an enormous, limitless forest.

36. Item 1	37. Item 2	38. Similarity