



Do you like poetry? If the answer is “no”, do not fret for you are not alone. Many people detest poetry. They said it is difficult to understand. This could be true because poetry is a work of art. It is an expression of emotions and ideas that rely for its effect on images, rhythm, shades of meaning, and is created to escape the logical; thus, making it notoriously difficult.

After working on this module, you should be able to:

1. appreciate poetry,
2. utilize metaphorical and non-literal language to express ideas, convey meaning, and create ideas,
3. distinguish a metaphorical statement from a simile,
4. interpret literal and non-literal meanings of words, phrases, and sentences,
5. demonstrate what they have learned through writing, and by applying their understanding to other texts and lifelong learning.

Let us first talk about poems. A poem is a composition in verse. It usually has rhythms. It may or may not be rhymed. It is written to express love, anger, sorrow, or desire. Its subject is endless. No matter how short or how long a poem is, there is no singular “correct” interpretation to it. Its meaning depends on how the readers understand and appreciate it. One reason why there are different understandings and interpretations is the common use of figures of speech in writing these poems, specifically metaphors and similes.

Take a look at the following examples:

1. "My love is like a red, red rose."- Robert Burns

2. "The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas- "The Highway Man"

Which is a sample of simile? Of metaphor? Sentence number 1 compares the intensity of a man's love to the bright color of a red rose. Red symbolizes love. The repetition of the word "red" emphasizes the intensity of the feeling. It uses expressions like "as", "as if", and "like" as it compares love to a rose. A figure of speech that compares two unlike things or ideas with the use of the expressions mentioned above is called *simile*.

Sentence number 2 directly compares a moon to a sailing ship. The clouds are being compared to ocean waves. This is an accurate comparison because sometimes banks of clouds shuttling past the moon cause the moon to appear to be moving like a galleon and the rolling clouds resemble churning water. This figure of speech that directly transfers the sense or aspect of one word to another is called *metaphor*.

Here are more examples of similes and metaphors.

Simile

1. Wendell is like a human calculator.
2. Sen. Mirriam Santiago is as brave as a lion.
3. The newly sharpened saw cut through a wood like a knife through a butter.
4. Peter is as skinny as a bean pole.
5. Watching a boring show is like watching the paint dry.

Metaphor

1. Our baby is a soft teddy bear.
2. My friend Joey is a clown.
3. My godmother is an angel in my life.
4. You are my hero.
5. My room is an inferno during summer.

Activity 1

Now, try to answer this activity. Identify whether it is a simile or metaphor. Underline your choice.

(simile, metaphor) 1. Bruce is the Lion King of his class.

(simile, metaphor) 2. Stacey is a pig when she eats.

(simile, metaphor) 3. My mistress eyes are nothing like the sun.

(simile, metaphor) 4. Her soft voice was music to his ears.

(simile, metaphor) 5. The transferee is as stubborn as an untrained dog.

(simile, metaphor) 6. The shop was a little goldmine.

(simile, metaphor) 7. The clouds were fluffy like cotton wool.

(simile, metaphor) 8. The torch lit up the room as if the sun had risen early.

(simile, metaphor) 9. I couldn't catch Arnie because she is as slippery as an eel.

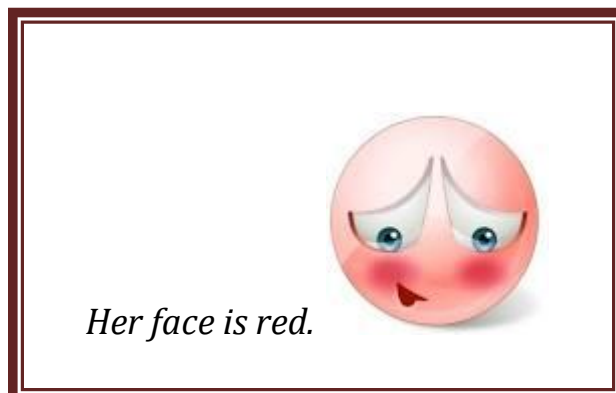
(simile, metaphor) 10. The striker was a goal machine.

Literal and Non-literal Meanings

How will you distinguish if the meaning of a word or phrase is literal or non-literal?

Literal meaning refers to words that do not deviate from their defined meaning (Wikipedia). It shows the “normal” meaning of the words. Non-literal meaning is when a word or phrase in a sentence means something other than the exact words in it.

Here is an example:



The *literal* meaning is that her face IS red. Maybe somebody painted it red or the make-up is colored red. The *non-literal* meaning is that her face became red because she was angry or was ashamed. Non-literal language is synonymous with figurative language.

Activity 2

Literal and Non-literal Meaning

Let us see if you could identify a literal from a non-literal. Put a check in the line if the sentence states a literal meaning. If not, just leave it blank.

- _____ 1. A library is a place where books are placed.
- _____ 2. A library is home to those who love reading.
- _____ 3. During exams, Carla is a night owl.
- _____ 4. Rainy days have begun according to PAG-ASA.
- _____ 5. The exam was a piece of cake.



Here's more:

- _____ 1. Thomas thinks that doing school work is a big video game.
- _____ 2. Laura has made up her mind to volunteer after school.
- _____ 3. Thinking of summer makes me feel a bundle of joy.
- _____ 4. As I delivered my speech, my voice sounds like I swallowed rocks and sand.
- _____ 5. Sometimes I have to be my little brother's brain.

Now that you know what literal and non-literal meanings are, I would like you to read and taste the joy of studying and appreciating poetry. Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.



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 a fork or a spoon
or plate or napkin or tablecloth.*

For there is no core

or stem

or rind

or pit

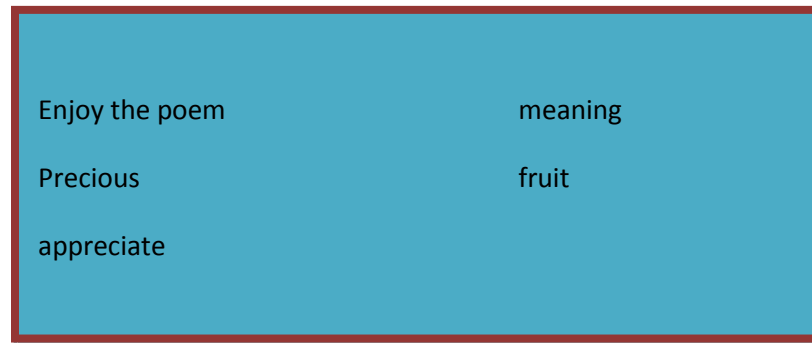
or seed

or skin

to throw away

Activity 3

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate answer. Choose from the box below.



1. To what does the poet compare the poem? _____
2. The invitation “bite in” means _____
3. The fruit’s richness in juice is compared to a poem’s richness in _____ .
4. In the second stanza, there is nothing to throw away because every word in a poem is _____ .
5. Just as how you want to sink your tooth into a juicy fruit, the author tells you as well to look forward and _____.

Activity 4

Literal and non-literal: Check the box that tells how a poem must be “eaten” according to the poem.

1. It should be enjoyed by smart minds.
2. It invites everyone to taste the joy of reading poems.
3. Just like food, we should not “waste” any word or ignore any word from a poem.
4. Poems should be interpreted in the same manner.
5. Poems are for everyone.

GRAMMAR LESSON

Every word in the English language belongs to a category in is called *parts of speech*. It is important to know them because it tells us how the words relate to one another. There are eight main parts of speech and these are **nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections**. Here is a detailed information of each.

- Noun - names people, places, things, etc..
- Pronouns - substitute the nouns
- Verbs - action words
- Adverbs - describe a verb, adjective, or another adverb
- Adjective - describes a noun or pronoun
- Preposition - links a noun to another word
- Conjunctions - joins words, clauses, and phrases
- Preposition - short exclamations

Study the words in the poem. What types of words (parts of speech) does the author use in to express her message?



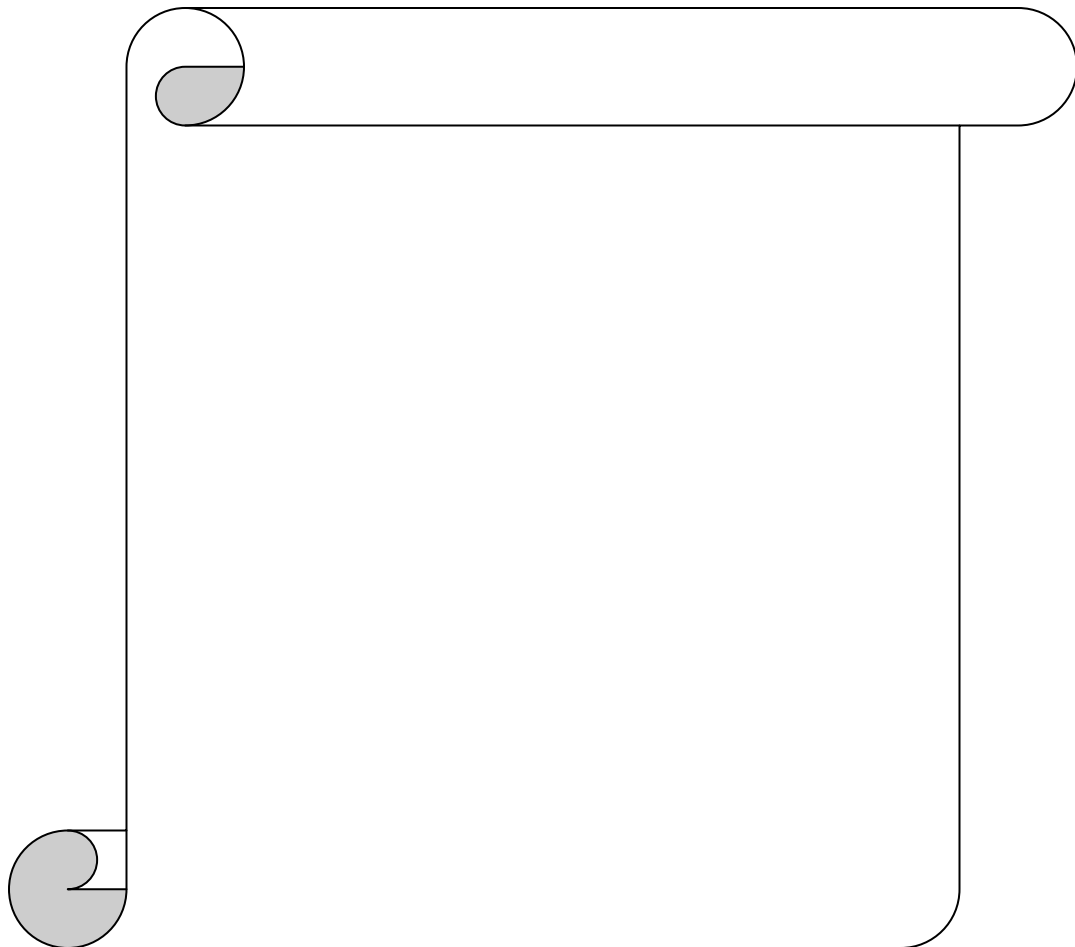
Activity 5

Fill in the table below with words from the poem. Categorize them into the different parts of speech: nouns, verbs, and adjectives.

NOUNS	VERBS	ADJECTIVES
		

Activity 6

Having categorized the words, compare your answers to the answer key. The author successfully used familiar words in a non-literal manner. Using the knowledge you gained in this activity, I would want you to write your own poem using simple parts of speech, specifically **nouns**, **verbs**, and **adjectives**. Make sure you utilize literal and non-literal language. Your poem must be longer than ten (10) lines.



ANSWER KEY:

Activity 1

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Simile | 6. Metaphor |
| 2. Metaphor | 7. Simile |
| 3. Metaphor | 8. Simile |
| 4. Metaphor | 9. Simile |
| 5. Simile | 10. Metaphor |

Activity 2

1. ✓
2. -
3. -
4. ✓
5. -

Here's more:

1. -
2. ✓
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Activity 3

1. Fruit
2. Appreciate
3. Meaning
4. Precious
5. Enjoy the poem

Activity 4

1. -
2. ✓
3. ✓
4. -
5. ✓

Activity 5

Nouns

Fingers

Juice

Chin

Knife

Fork

spoon

plate

napkin

tablecloth

core

stem

rind

pit

seed

skin

Verbs

Bite

Pick it up

Lick

Run

Need

Throw away

Adjectives

Ready

ripe