

Week 4 Annotation Option #1: Choose Your Own Annotation Adventure!

1. **Find a poem** (or a set of *appropriate song lyrics*) to annotate this week. But note: you will need to be able to find different poetic features in it! Be sure to preview your poem to make sure it has enough to work with before getting started.
2. **Copy & paste your poem** into your Poetry Week 4 doc.
3. Choose **AT LEAST 3 different figurative language devices** to identify in your poem, annotate, & explain with a comment.
(**Note:** If it doesn't have 3 different types of these, you'll have to select a different poem!)

Figurative Language (Choose 3 kinds to **label an example** of & **explain** in a comment)

- **Simile** → What is being compared? Why?
 - **Metaphor** → What is being compared? Why?
 - **Personification** → What is behaving like a human person? What is the human behavior?
 - **Idiom** → What is the expression, and what does it mean?
 - **Hyperbole** → What is being exaggerated? What effect does the exaggeration have?
 - **Allusion** → What is being referred to?
 - **Sensory image(ry)** → What is being described? What sense(s) are being used?
 - **Extended metaphor** → What is the metaphor, and what does it say about the thing it represents?
4. Choose **AT LEAST 2 different sound devices** to identify in your poem, and annotate with a comment.
(**Note:** If it doesn't have 2 different types of these, you'll have to select a different poem!)

Sound Devices (Choose 2 kinds to **label an example** of in a comment)

- **Rhyme Scheme** → make a comment on the last word of each line to label the pattern
 - **Alliteration**
 - **Onomatopoeia**
 - **Enjambment**
 - **Repetition**
5. Finally, add a comment and analyze **how the poet or lyricist ENDS the poem**/lyrics. What technique(s) do they use to make a resonant, or poignant, ending?

Hint: If you don't know or remember some of these terms, use the **explanations and examples below** to help you :)

Figurative Language Terms

Simile

A comparison between two things using the word 'like' or the word 'as'

Example: "the sun cresting **like a wave that won't break**" -- Smith's "How Dark the Beginning"

Metaphor

A comparison between two things WITHOUT using 'like' or 'as'. It might be using a "to be" verb, or by means of an implication that the two things are the same.

Example: "**the slap and pop were obscene threats**" -- Heaney's "Death of a Naturalist"

Personification

When a writer describes a non-human thing as if it has human emotions, motivations, or performs human actions. [Sometimes authors do this by turning something into a proper noun & capitalizing it!]

Example: "even **the universe is telling us...**" -- Smith's "Meteor Shower"

[Universes don't actually talk like humans do.]

Idiom

A common expression that has a figurative meaning that is different from the literal, or dictionary, definition of the words in the phrase

Example: "my eager **mind begins to race**" -- Engle's "[Books are door-shaped]"

['mind racing' is a common expression meaning that you are thinking a lot of things at once]

Hyperbole

An extreme exaggeration for effect

Example: "**All we ever talk of** is light" -- Smith's "How Dark the Beginning"

[Humans do talk about things other than light. That is not literally ALL we discuss EVER.]

Allusion

A reference (usually a name) to something from a work of art, literature, or historic or popular culture. An allusion only makes sense to the reader if the reader knows what it is being referred to.

Example: "**Bic** lighter" -- Weyant's "Yellowjackets"

[Bic is a company/brand that makes lighters and other household office products]

Sensory Imagery

Vivid description using any of the five senses (sight, smell, taste, sound, touch) that paints an image in the reader's mind

Example: "their usual **side-to-side swag / of a dance, flailing** in the smoke" -- Weyant's "Yellowjackets"

Extended Metaphor

A metaphor that is used throughout a poem or piece of literature (more than one instance of comparison)

Example: a **meteor = life's path/journey** -- Clint Smith's "Meteor Shower"

Sound Device Terms

Rhyme Scheme

The rhyming patterns of line endings in a poem

Learn [how to identify and label the rhyme scheme of a poem](#)

Alliteration

The use of repeated consonant sounds at the beginning of a series of words

Example: “**u**n ladylike and **u**gly” -- Engle’s “[Books are door-shaped]”; “**c**oarse **c**roaking” -- Heaney’s “Death of a Naturalist”

Onomatopoeia

The use of made-up words to represent sounds

Example: quack, tick-tock, boom, bang, splash, zoom

Enjambment

When a poet splits up a sentence or phrase over multiple lines in a poem, breaking up the flow and rhythm of the sentence as it would sound in prose

Example: “Each child in this family has the same space / connecting us” -- Woodson’s “genetics”

Repetition

When a poet uses repeated words or phrases to create emphasis or to evoke a sound or certain rhythm