

Patterns in Poetry -- Images

Student/Class Goal

To prepare for the Language Arts section of the GED test, students will want to listen, read, and understand a variety of poems by recognized poets and to be familiar with the terms used in the specific questions on poetry. Students will want to practice their comprehension skills through listening, reading, and speaking.

Outcome (lesson objective)

Students will recognize the use of images, metaphors, and symbols in poetry and how they contribute to understanding the poem.

Time Frame

Approximately 1 hour

Standard *Read with Understanding*

NRS EFL 3-5

Purpose	Benchmarks	Word Knowledge	Benchmarks	Comprehension	Benchmarks
Purpose for reading	3.1, 4.1, 5.1	Decoding skills	3.3, 4.3, 5.3	Strategy use	3.11, 4.11, 5.11
Select text	3.2, 4.2, 5.2	Word parts		Text structural elements	
		Context clues		Genres	4.13
		Reference materials		Literary analysis	
		Word relationships		Drawing conclusions	3.15, 4.15, 5.15
		Content vocabulary	3.8, 4.8, 5.8	Making connections	3.16, 4.16, 5.16
		Figurative language	3.9, 4.9, 5.9		
		Fluency			

Materials

List of Poems for handouts
Poetry Thematic Collection
Objects to demonstrate symbols: egg, plant, spice, pen or book, ring, flag, etc.
Teacher Information Sheet

Learner Prior Knowledge

This is the third lesson plan in a three-part sequence on Patterns in Poetry. This lesson concentrates on images and their uses. Rhythms dealt with meter and Sounds focused on rhymes, alliteration, and assonance. Images are an inescapable part of our very visual culture—TV, movies, computers, print ads, etc.

Instructional Activities

Step 1 - Poets want the reader to experience or feel the poem. They use words to help us recreate sensory memories—sight, sound, taste, smell, and touch—that we have stored in our brains. In poems every word counts. Almost every word contributes to the patterns of rhythm, sound, and image. Poets use these patterns to guide the reader in understanding what they wanted to communicate. Patterns in Poetry Parts 1 and 2 focused on rhythm and sound repetitions. Briefly review types of patterns from the previous lessons if they have been completed—**meter, feet, rhyme, alliteration** and **assonance**. The last pattern we will look at is **image**. An **image** refers to a real object in the world that is recreated as a picture or sensation through concrete details in the poem.

Choose 2-4 poems marked “Image” from the list to read aloud to the class. You may decide to read only the first parts of longer poems. One by one, read the poems aloud together. After each poem, discuss the image or picture that the poet has created. Find as many specific details of the picture as possible. For example, *The Term* by William Carlos Williams describes a brown, wind-blown bag that is run over by a car. In Richard Wilbur’s *Love Calls Us to Things of This World*, laundry is flapping on a clothesline high above the ground. In William Jay Smith’s *Winter Morning*, the speaker describes a snowstorm at night followed by a morning snowscape. In Ezra Pound’s *In a Station of the Metro*, the faces of the crowd are reflected in the train window.

Step 2 - Images are often the basis for a comparison with another object. In poetry, these comparisons are called **metaphors** (or **similes** if the comparison uses the words “like” or “as” or **personification** if an inanimate object is given life-like characteristics) in which two things that are not usually thought of as being similar are found to be alike in a few interesting ways. Our everyday language is full of metaphors. Brainstorm a list together to practice recognizing metaphors. Many use parts of the body. Here are some to get the list started: head of a pin, foot of a ladder, eye of a needle, table leg, bat-wing sleeve, face of a cliff, neck of a bottle.

Return to the poems that you read aloud in Step 1 and look for comparisons that use the image as the basis for a comparison. In the Williams poem, the paper bag is compared to a human body. Wilber compares the laundry flapping on the clothesline to angels/souls. The snowstorm described by Smith produces a valley that in the morning looks like a giant's mouth complete with teeth and tongue. And Pound sees the reflected faces in the train windows as petals on a bough.

Step 3 - Sometimes the image becomes an extended metaphor that builds throughout the poem, becoming a **symbol** of some larger, more general, more abstract idea. To practice recognizing symbols, use the objects collected to discuss how the objects becomes associated with ideas: egg=life; plant=life cycle; spice=special pleasure; ring on 4th finger, left hand=marriage; flag=nationalism, patriotism; door=passage to new experience or part of life; lemon=sun (color yellow, vitamin D); and pen=knowledge. The Library of Congress and Google Images web sites provide lots of photographs that you could use in place of the objects to generate a list of symbols such as sunset=late in life; sunrise=starting over, new life; river=path through life; dove=peace; night=death etc.

At this point if time permits, teachers might like to do a mini-lesson on symbols in advertising by cutting out ads of cars, clothes, food and cosmetics and discuss what the object symbolizes in the ad. See the Teacher Information Sheet for web sites.

To see how a symbol is developed in a poem, read aloud *In Spring and All* by William Carlos Williams. Read it aloud together noting how he describes a windy late winter day using details of "waste," "muddy fields," "brown with dried weeds," "dead, brown leaves," "leafless vines," telling us that the scene is "lifeless in appearance" although "dazed spring approaches" and "the stiff curl of wild carrot leaf" will appear. So far we have two **images**, one of bleak winter day and a spring day that will come soon. "Contagious hospital" suggests a tubercular sanitarium or at least a place where diseased people stay and "quicken," which is the word pregnant women use to describe the first movements of the baby in utero, makes us think of birth and new life. The lifeless images give way to images of spring and birth. The earth is compared metaphorically to a women giving birth. The **metaphor** of coming life becomes a **symbol** of hope for "tomorrow." (It may help to know that Williams was a practicing doctor who delivered lots of babies.)

Step 4 - Ask individuals or pairs of students to choose a poem from the list, or download another poem by a poet that they like, or select from a text set from the Poetry Matrix. Use the following questions, to mark the handout and makes notes about the imagery and how it contributes to understanding of the poem: Find the images and underline concrete details of description. Is the image compared to something else, and if so, what characteristics are selected? What does the metaphor contribute to the poem? Does the image/metaphor represent some abstract idea or symbol? If you have already done Patterns in Poetry, Part I, Rhythm and Patterns in Poetry, Part 2, Sounds, ask students to write about how the rhythm and sounds work with the imagery to help the reader understand the poem.

Assessment/Evidence (based on outcome)

Students should place their marked handout, any notes and writing about the poem in their portfolio.

Teacher Reflection/Lesson Evaluation

Not yet completed.

Next Steps

Teachers may want to integrate a media literacy lesson on images and symbols in advertising. Also, students might enjoy a follow-up lesson in writing poetry.

Technology Integration

The Library of Congress <http://www.loc.gov/index.html>

Google Images <http://images.google.com/>

Purposeful & Transparent

Listening, reading, and discussion of the images in poetry will help them understand how the components of poetry contribute to a comprehension the poem as a whole. Since image, metaphor, and symbol will be tested in the Language arts Section of the GED, students will be better prepared by being familiar with a variety of poems.

Contextual

Since we live in a world of images, students can apply what they learn about images in poetry to literature generally and to the images on TV, magazines, and computers.

Building Expertise

The progression of listening first, then reading before discussing encourages repeated attention to the material. Listening and reading aloud reinforces comprehension skills. Working in pairs or small groups maximizes the pleasure and minimizes the anxiety that poetry can evoke.

TEACHER INFORMATION SHEET

The following resources supplement the three sequential lesson plans on Patterns in Poetry which also can be used individually: Part 1—Rhythm explores patterns in general and the meter in poetry in particular; Part 2—Sound builds on the first by introducing rhyme, alliteration, and assonance; and Part 3 focuses the use of images, metaphors, and symbols. Lesson plan materials include a list of poems with web addresses (be sure to include some of your favorites), a copy of the Eureka Poetry Collection for selecting text sets of poetry, and this sheet of additional resources.

Images

<http://images.google.com/>

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html>

Poetry

www.cranberrydesigns.com/poetry/intro.htm

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/general/gl_patvar.html

www.42explore2.com/patterns.htm

<http://web.csustan.edu/english/reuben/pal/append/AXF.html>

<http://brainstorm-services.com/wcu-lit/craft-of-poetry.html>

www.infoplease.com/spot/pmglossary1.html

<http://shoga.wwa.com/%7ergs/glossary.html>

<http://literacy.kent.edu/Oasis/Pubs/0300-26.pdf>

Poetry Archives

www.poets.org/academy

www.bartelby.com/verse/

www.infoplease.com/spot/pmsites1.html

<http://dir.yahoo.com/Arts/Humanities/Literature/Poetry/Anthologies>

www.etext.lib.virginia.edu/britpro.html

www.americanpoems.com

www.classic-romantic-love-poems.com

Math

www.learner.org/teacherslab/math/patterns

www.standards.nctm.org/document/eexamples/chap4/4.5/index.htm

www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000622.shtml

www.archtech.org/java/patterns/patterns_j.shtml

www.col-ed.org/cur/math/math06.txt

Media and Advertising

www.media-

awareness.ca/english/resources/educational/lessons/elementary/alcohol/upload/understand_brands_1k.pdf

www.readwritethink.org/lesson_images/lesson97/advert.pdf

www.pbs.org/teachersource/media_lit/gettingstarted.shtml

Print Resources

Enriching Our Lives: Poetry Lessons for Adult Literacy Teachers and Tutors, Francis E. Kazemak & Pat Rigg

Finding What You Didn't Lose, John Fox

Making Your Own Days: The Pleasures in Reading and Writing Poetry, Kenneth Koch

Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry, Laurence Perrine

Wishes, Lies, and Dreams: Teaching Children to Write Poetry, Kenneth Koch

LOVE CALLS US TO THINGS OF THIS WORLD

The eyes open to a cry of pulleys
And spirited from sleep, the astounded soul
Hangs for a moment bodiless and simple
As false dawn.
Outside the open window
The morning air is all awash with angels.

Some are in bed-sheet, some are in blouses,
Some are in smocks: but truly there they are.
Now they are rising in calm swells
Of halcyon feeling, filling whatever they wear
With deep joy of their personal feeling.

Now they are flying in place, convey in
The terrible speed of their omnipresence, moving
And staying like white water: and now of a sudden
They swoon down to so rapt a quiet
That nobody seems to be there.
The soul shrinks

From all that it is about to remember,
From the punctual rape of every blessed day,
And cries, "Oh, let there be nothing on earth but laundry,
Nothing but rosey hands in the rising steam
And clear dances done in the sight of heaven.

Yet, as the sun acknowledges
With a warm look at the world's hunks and colors,
The soul descends once more in bitter love
To accept the waking body, saying how
In a changed voice as the man yawns and rises,

"Bring them down from their ruddy gallows.
Let there be clean linen for the backs of thieves;
Let lovers go fresh and sweet to be undone,
And the heaviest nuns walk in a pure floating
Of dark habits, keeping their difficult balance.

Richard Wilbur

WINTER MORNING

All night the wind swept over the house
And through our dream
Swirling snow up through the pines,
Ruffling the white, ice-capped clapboards,
Rattling the windows,
Rustling around and below our bed
So that we rode
Over wild water
In a white ship breasting the waves.
We rode through the night
On green, marbled
Water, and, half-waking, watched
The white, eroded peaks of icebergs
Sail past our window;
Rode out the night in the north country,
And awake, the house buried in snow,
Perched on a
Chill promontory, a
Giant's tooth
In the mouth of the cold valley
Its white tongue looped frozen around us,
The trunks of tall birches
Revealing the rib cage of a whale
Stranded by a still stream;
And saw through the motionless baleen of their branches,
As if through time
A light that shone
On a landscape of ivory
A harbor of stone.

William Jay Smith

PATTERNS IN POETRY LIST OF POEMS

POEM	POET	WEB SITE/BOOK	EMPHASIS
A Narrow Fellow in the Grass	Dickinson, Emily	www.online-literature.com/dickinson/824/	Rhythm Image
Annabel Lee	Poe, Edgar Allan	http://bau2.uibk.ac.at/sg/poe/works/poetry/annabel.html	Rhythm Sounds
In a Station of the Metro	Pound, Ezra	www.bartleby.com/104/106.html	Rhythm Image
In Just	cummings, e.e.	www.web-books.com/classics/Poetry/anthology/cummings/InJust.htm	Rhythm
Pied Beauty	Hopkins, Gerard Manly	www.bartleby.com/122/13.html	Rhythm Sounds
Piping Down the Valleys Wild	Blake, William	http://quotations.about.com/od/poemlyrics/a/blakepoem14.htm	Rhythm Sounds
Remember	Rossetti, Christina	www.sitemappro.com/examples/prossetti.html	Rhythm Sounds
Richard Cory	Robinson, Edwin Arlington	www.bartleby.com/104/45.html	Rhythm Sounds
Skipper Sailing	Rudder, Carol	Beginnings Vol. VIII, p. 109 http://literacy.kent.edu/Oasis/Pubs/Beginnings8/pleasure.pdf	Rhythm
Sonnet LXXI (71)	Shakespeare, William	www.everypoet.com/Archive/Poetry/William_Shakespeare/william_shakespeare_sonnet_71.htm	Rhythm Sounds Image
Sonnet LXXIII (73)	Shakespeare, William	www.geocities.com/Athens/Troy/4081/73.html	Rhythm Sounds Image
Spring and All	Williams, William Carlos	www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/15536	Rhythm Image
The Aim Was Song	Frost, Robert	http://poetry.poetryx.com/poems/249/	Rhythm
The Charge of the Light Brigade	Alfred, Lord Tennyson	www.nationalcenter.org/ChargeoftheLightBrigade.html	Rhythm Image
The Morning Is Full	Neruda, Pablo	www.geocities.com/nerudapoet/lovepoems/themorning.htm?200730	Rhythm Image
The Term	Williams, William Carlos	www.americanpoems.com/poets/williams/7788	Rhythm
The Wild Swans at Coole	Yeats, William Butler	www.online-literature.com/yeats/803/	Rhythm Image
We Real Cool	Brooks, Gwendolyn	www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/15433	Sounds
When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer	Whitman, Walt	www.bartleby.com/142/180.html	Rhythm
Winter Morning	Smith, William Jay	New and Select Poems, Delacorte Press, 1970	Image