

Julia Cortes  
English p.4  
May 14,2009

## REFLECTION

In Ms.Sambrani's class, in a unit on poetry titled "Beauty and light" we studied literary terms and figures of speech read and applied them to our reading of poetry. This unit covers sophomore standards LRA 3.7 and LRA 3.11. We applied these standards to recognizing figures of speech in poems and a play, and to being able to explain their effect on the meaning of the work of literature read.

I am picking the following poems to include in my portfolio because the poems made an impact on me. I picked the poem Harlem by Langston Hughes because the poem talks about what happens to a dream that is put aside. I picked the poem Alzheimer's by Kelly Cherry because it talks about how an old guy remembers things from his past but nothing from his present. I picked the poem Wild Geese by Mary Oliver because it explains how you don't need to do much to go on in life, because life always goes on. I picked The Day We Die by Southern Bushmen because the poem shows how you become part of nature when you die. I also picked the poem Ode To Broken Things by Pablo Neruda because the poem shows how some things just have to be broken in life with nobody having to break them.

Lastly, I am including the literary terms table for the play "For colored girls..." because the play has strong examples of all literary terms we studied in this unit.

Poem: Harlem

Poet: Langston Hughes

Page and book: 1175, Norton

Vocabulary:

- Deferred-set aside/put away
- Fester-infected

Literary Terms/ Figures of speech:

- Simile- "Like a raisin"  
"Like a sore"  
"Like rotten meat"  
"Like a heavy load"  
"Like a syrupy sweet"
- Symbol-Raisin =dried up  
Sore =infected <sup>wound</sup> womb
- Repetition and rhyme-  
"Like"  
"Does it"

Summary/Analysis:

This poem is about what happens to a dream that is put aside. And they use a lot of examples like that if a dream is put aside, does it dry up or does it explode? I think in a way you can look at a dream put aside like that because, you're not going after it anymore so it's just there like in the corner of your head <sup>a dream</sup> of thoughts, <sup>the poet</sup> thrown away. And since you don't think about it anymore it just dies. This poem is about race in America and how, most often, the dreams of colored people are deferred, which is also what happened, during slavery, as it continues to the present day.

Poem: Alzheimer's  
Poet: Kelly Cherry  
Page and book: 852, Norton

Vocabulary:

- Smithy-iron shop
- Mortar-building material

Literary Terms/ Figures of speech:

- Simile-"mind rattling like the suitcase"
- Images/symbols-  
Roses and columbines slug it out, claw the mortar

Summary/Analysis:

This poem talks about how an old man just got back home and while he's walking in, he is remembering everything from when he was young. Like the England Rains and the car he used to ride. But he doesn't remember his present like his wife that is waiting for him on the doorway. To me this would be really sad for the person with this disease and the family because they would have to deal with they're-loved one not remembering them at all at one point.

*rain* — England Rains  
*and* — and  
*drive* — drive  
*at* — at  
*their* — their  
*from the hospital* — from the hospital

Poem: Wild Geese

Poet: Mary Oliver

Page and book: 40, A book of Luminous Things

Vocabulary:

- Repenting-to be sorrowful

Literary Terms/ Figures of speech:

- Hyperbole- "you do not have to walk on your knees for a hundred miles"
- Theme-Nature is comforting

Summary/Analysis:

This poem is about how you don't have to sacrifice yourself or do a lot to go on in life. ~~And that while you're~~ <sup>you</sup> worrying about little things, ~~or~~ are stuck in one position. The world is going on and you're just wasting time. That's how I look at things if I <sup>make</sup> do a mistake in life and know that I can't fix it. I move on and leave it as part of my past because life is too short to waste on things like that. Just learn from them to try to avoid them.

Poem: The day we die

Poet: Southern Bushmen

Page and book: 289, A book of Luminous Things

Vocabulary: N/A

Literary Terms/ Figures of speech:

- Theme- life and death
- Rhyme-song like 2,3 match
- Symbol-wind and footprints=  
Life and death

Summary/Analysis:

This poem is about when you die <sup>a</sup> And how everything that was we-  
disappear <sup>s</sup> like <sup>o</sup> our footprints are erased by the wind. So that all that is left  
are memories. While <sup>the</sup> rest of us <sup>are</sup> is just part of nature. I can connect  
with this poem a lot <sup>because</sup> cause to me once you die, nothing <sup>can</sup> would be the same.  
people will only have memories of you. Like things you use <sup>to</sup> say but never  
would sound the way it did when they came from you.

and our life ends

there

Poem: Ode to Broken Things

Poet: Pablo Neruda

Page and book: Packet

Vocabulary:

- Fragility-tenderness or vulnerability
- Breakers-big wave
- Perishable-that which can die

Literary Terms/ Figures of speech:

- Simile-"is like an island on a ship in the sea"  
"That sounds like a river"
- Personification-  
"Rolled round and round and rolled all through winter"  
"And that clock whose sound was the voice of our lives"

Summary/Analysis:

This poem is about how some things just have to break in life. Even though people have nothing to do them. It's just to me like something that's part of life. To live life you have to go through your ups and downs and so when something is broken you have to fix it. Being broken is like having two or more choices and having to pick one, or having to do what's right. I go through a lot of this in my life and its just what life is about, from my point of view.

Broken things or  
material things have  
greater value than  
love.

## FIGURES OF SPEECH IN "FOR COLORED GIRLS..."

Figure of speech	Example	Page
Alliteration	"Sparsely sequined skirts"	24
Persona	Lady in brown, Lady in purple	5
Irony	Was disqualified cuz Toussaint was in the adult section	27
Sarcasm	Charmin, Charmin	14
Repetition	Music/delicate	48
Personification	Sorry greeting me at my front door	52
Onomatopoeia	Shoo-n-doo-wah	13
Denotation	Rainbow-racism discrimination	Title
Under statement	And he dropped em	60
Abstract language	She is the passion flower of southwest	31

## Writing Rubric

CATEGORY	5 Advanced	4 Proficient	3 Basic	2 Below Basic	1 Far Below Basic
<b>Ideas</b>	In addition to there being one clear, well-focused topic, and the main idea standing out and being supported by detailed information in every paragraph, there is a deep understanding and critical analysis of the subject.	There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information.	Main idea is clear but the supporting information is general.	Main idea is somewhat clear but there is a need for more supporting information.	The main idea is not clear. There is a seemingly random collection of information.
<b>Voice</b>	The readers questions are answered and the voice of the writer guides the reader with expertise, through the subject matter.	The reader's questions are anticipated and answered thoroughly and completely.	The reader's questions and anticipated and answered to some extent.	The reader is left with one or two questions. More information is needed to "fill in the blanks".	The reader is left with several questions.
<b>Word Choice</b>	<i>Some rephrasing necessary</i> Writer's word choice suggests a grade level and below proficiency in vocabulary development, the writing is lucid and enjoyable, in addition to being accurate.	Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, and the choice and placement of words seems accurate, natural and not forced.	Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, but occasionally the words are used inaccurately or seem overdone.	Writer uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety, punch or flair.	Writer uses a limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly or capture the reader's interest. Jargon or cliché's may be present and detract from the meaning.
<b>Sentence Fluency</b>	There are no sentence fluency or sentence structure errors, the sentences are easy to read quietly or aloud and suggest style and flair. Each sentence has a distinct clarity of purpose as well as structure.	All sentences sound natural and are easy on the ear when read aloud. Each sentence is clear and has an obvious emphasis.	Almost all sentences sound natural are easy-on-the-ear when read aloud, but 1 or 2 are stiff and awkward or difficult to understand.	Most sentences sound natural and easy-on-the-ear when read aloud, but several and stiff and awkward or are difficult to understand.	The sentences are difficult to read aloud because they sound awkward, are distractingly repetitive, or difficult to understand.
<b>Conventions</b>	1 Punctuation errors 2 MLA format missing There are no spelling or grammar errors. Writer exhibits clear understanding of elements of grammar such as subject verb agreement, run on sentences, tenses etc.	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.

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"Does it"

Summary/Analysis:

This poem is about what happens to a dream that is put aside. And the poet use a lot of examples- if a dream is put aside, does it dry up or does it explode? I think in a way you can put a dream aside like that because, you're not going after it anymore so its just there like in the corner of your thoughts. And since you don't think about it anymore it just dies. This poem is also about race in America and how, most often, the dreams of colored people are deferred, which is also what happened, during slavery, as it continues to the present day.

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Poet: Kelly Cherry

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Life and death

Summary/Analysis:

This poem is about when you die and how everything that was there disappears. Our footprints are erased by the wind and our life ends so that all that is left are memories. The rest of us, are just part of nature. I can connect with this poem a lot because to me once you die nothing, can be the same. People only have memories of you like things you used to say.

Poem: Ode to Broken Things

Poet: Pablo Neruda

Page and book: Packet

Vocabulary:

- Fragility-tenderness or vulnerability
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