

## Literature MYCT: Unseen Poetry

Note: For a 21 – 25 essay, we must have insight (something more interesting than the usual metaphor, stichomythia, and simple analysis).

### SLIMS

SLIMS: Structure, Language, Imagery, Movement, Sound (if part A asks for one of them, exhaust it, and then exhaust the others in part B)

Structure:

- **Stanza message:** What is each different stanzas are trying to say
- **Structural oddities:** Look out for breaks in the structure (if each stanza has 3 lines but one of them only has two lines, use that to explain what the poet might be trying to accomplish).
- **Rhyme scheme** (look at the words he rhymes – are they similar to achieve a purpose, are they antonyms to highlight an irony)?

Language:

1. **Simple Repetition:** The simple repetition of a word.
  2. **Deliberate Tautology:** The repetition of an idea by re-explaining it twice.
    - a. “The gun went off with a loud bang”
  3. **Motif:** A detail repeated throughout a longer piece of writing (repeated symbol to strike a message)
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1. **Cumulative Listing:** Purpose is to overwhelm the reader by the large number of things
  2. **Incremental Listing:** Listing in the order of seriousness

Imagery:

- **Simile:** Direct comparison using “as” or “like”
- **Metaphor:** Indirect comparison
- **Personification:** The attribution of human qualities to non human things

Movement:

- **Enjambment (Run-On Line):** A line that goes over into the next
- **Caesura:** A grammatical pause or break in the middle of a line of poetry (indicated by punctuation)

Sound:

- **Short/Long Vowel Sounds:** (look out for double vowel sounds, or for deliberate short words used repeatedly)
  - o Dirty little tug boat chugging up the thames
  - o Sleek ocean schooner sweeping over the waves

- **Alliteration:** Repetition of consonant sounds
- **Onomatopoeia:** Making a word sound like the sound they are describing.

### Auxiliary Literary Devices

**Amplification:** When the writer makes a point, then explains the gravity of the point (*"The research paper was difficult: It required extensive research, data collection, sample analysis..."*)

**Anagram:** Look out for when two words are anagrams of one another.

**Antithesis:** When a writer says two things opposite in meaning very close to one another (*"The first step on the moon might have been a small step for man, but a giant leap for mankind"*)

**Assonance:** Repetition of vowel sounds with close proximity.

**Euphemism:** Censoring of crude words/phrases with nicer replacements ("kicked the bucket" for die)

**Hyperbole:** Excessive exaggeration ("I'm so tired I might fall asleep here")

**Oxymoron:** Contradictory words side-by-side ("little distance", "cold fire")

**Periphrasis:** Statements which are simple in nature but deliberately complicated

**Portmanteau:** Joining of word (liger)

**Pun:** Double meaning or referencing something else wittily

**Satire:** Parody

### Tension & Suspense

- Define the audience that feels this tension, and say why they feel this tension? (Might want to talk about target audiences of the poem)
  - o If the purpose of the poem is to induce a sense of nostalgia of childhood in adults, why ... build up tension? Who feels this tension?
  - o Stichomythia
  - o Power struggles

### Question Types

They have frequently tested: thoughts questions, feelings questions

**Read through all the unseen poetry exercises and annotation!**