

5.5 The function of a metaphor

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to explain an **extended metaphor** 延伸隐喻.

You must be able to:

- state what metaphorical comparisons focus on
- state the two things comparisons communicate
- define an extended metaphor and how it is expanded
- explain why context governs the transfer

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ The focus

Metaphorical comparisons do not focus solely on the objects being compared; they focus on the particular traits, qualities, or characteristics of the things being compared. The trait is the point.

■ Two communications

Comparisons not only communicate literal meaning but may also convey figurative meaning or transmit a perspective.

■ Extended metaphor

Created when the comparison of a main subject and comparison subject persists through parts of or an entire text, and when the comparison is expanded through additional details, similes, and images.

■ Context

Interpretation of an extended metaphor may depend on the context of its use; what is happening in a text may determine what is transferred. As an extended metaphor develops, the trait transferred can change.

2 Practice

2.1 State what metaphorical comparisons focus on. [2]

2.2 Define an extended metaphor. [2]

2.3 Context governs the transfer.

(a) State the CED's claim. [2]

(b) State how an extended metaphor is expanded. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Metaphorical comparisons focus on [1]

- **A** the objects alone
- **B** the traits, qualities or characteristics compared
- **C** the poem's date
- **D** the rhyme

3.2 An extended metaphor is expanded through additional details, similes and [1]

- **A** images
- **B** footnotes
- **C** titles
- **D** stanzas only

3.3 A metaphor of a voyage runs through a whole poem and its meaning shifts near the end.

(a) State what the CED says about this. [1]

(b) Explain how an analysis handles the shift.

[2]

4 Go further

- work through the **5.5 The function of a metaphor** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Poetry II** section of the AP English Literature handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 not solely the objects being compared but the particular traits, qualities or characteristics of the things compared.

2.2 the comparison of a main and comparison subject persisting through parts of or an entire text, expanded through additional details, similes and images.

2.3 (a) interpretation may depend on the context of its use, since what is happening in a text may determine what is transferred. (b) through additional details, similes and images.

3.1 B. the traits.

3.2 A. images.

3.3 (a) that what is transferred may depend on the context of use. (b) trace what trait is transferred at each stage and explain what the change of trait does to the poem's argument.