



# “Sleep” Poem by Annie Matheson

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Language Arts  
Grades 6-8



## Introduction

In the poem, “Sleep,” Annie Matheson uses an abundance of figurative language to describe sleep. She paints a vivid picture of the stillness of the night. This is a good piece to display how the use of figurative language strengthens writing.

## Learning Objectives

- ([CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.4](#)) Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.
- ([CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.5.A](#)) Interpret figures of speech (e.g., literary, biblical, and mythological allusions) in context.

## Materials Needed

- [Copies of “Sleep” by Annie Matheson](#)

## Procedure

1. Review various forms of figurative language such as simile, metaphors, and personification.
2. Assign students a form of figurative language and have them create an example.
3. Group students in groups of 3 or 4 and have them share.
4. Choose students to report out to the class.
5. Introduce “Sleep” and be mindful to point out that the poem is heavily laden with figurative language.
6. Read the poem as a class and after each stanza allow students time to stop and jot down the figurative language that is present. Ensure that as the students identify the figurative language that they include their interpretation of its meaning.
7. Have the students create a poster that displays at least 4 examples of the figurative language used in the poem. The posters should include a quote of the figurative language, a meaning of each example used, and an illustration.

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## Evaluation

Item	Explanation	Point Value
Name and meaning for each type of figurative language depicted on the poster	The students should have 4 examples of figurative language used within the poem and include the meaning for each.	40 points (10 per example)
An illustration is included for each example	The students are to include an illustration for each example of figurative language that is included on their poster.	40 points (10 per example)
Neatness	The poster should be neat with little to no errors.	10 points (-1 per error)
Grammar	The poster should be free of grammatical errors.	10 points (-1 per error)