

Before Reading

Message from a Caterpillar

Poem by Lilian Moore

Fog

Poem by Carl Sandburg

Two Haiku

Poems by Bashō

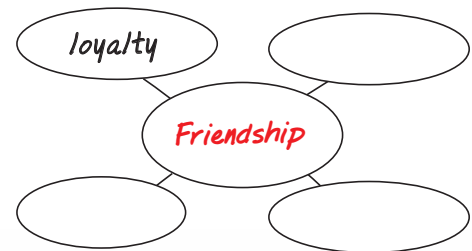
How much can one **WORD** say?



READING 4 Explain how figurative language contributes to the meaning of a poem. **8** Understand how an author's sensory language creates imagery in literary text. **RC-6(E)** Paraphrase texts in ways that maintain meaning and logical order within a text and across texts.

Sometimes a single word can pack a powerful punch. Words like *peace*, *freedom*, *friendship*, and *love* represent strong feelings, ideas, and memories. In each of the following short poems, the poet has worked as much meaning as possible into the smallest number of words.

WEB IT What are some small words that are big on meaning? Choose a word that you find expressive. Create a web with the word at the center. In the outer part of the web, write the feelings, ideas, and memories that you connect to that word.



Meet the Authors

LITERARY ANALYSIS: IMAGERY AND METAPHOR

Imagery is the use of sensory language—language that appeals to our senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. Imagery is one of the central elements of poetry. Images in poetry help us see the world in a fresh light.

Another important element in poetry is **metaphor**—the use of language in which one thing is compared to another, very different thing. Metaphors can work as sensory language too: in comparing one thing to another, different thing, metaphors often help us to see, hear, smell, taste, or touch something in a brand new way.

“The road was a ribbon of moonlight,” a line from a poem by Alfred Noyes, presents a vivid visual image to us. It also contains a metaphor: the road at night, flooded with moonlight, is compared to a ribbon.

READING STRATEGY: PARAPHRASE

Paraphrasing means restating someone else’s ideas in your own words. A paraphrase often helps clarify ideas that are expressed in complicated terms. Putting someone else’s words into your own words can help you understand a poem.

As you read each of the following poems, take the time to paraphrase the ideas in your own familiar vocabulary. Then, in a chart like the one below, jot down your paraphrase of ideas in each poem. List the ideas in the order they appear in the poem so that you maintain the meaning and order of each poem.

Poem	Paraphrase
“Message from a Caterpillar”	
“Fog”	
“Two Haiku”	

Lilian Moore

1909–2004

Lifelong Writer

Some of Lilian Moore’s earliest memories were of hanging out in her neighborhood and making up stories to tell her friends. Writing simple, vivid stories and poems for young readers eventually became her life’s work.



Carl Sandburg

1878–1967

Informal Poet

Carl Sandburg adopted an informal style in his poetry, believing that formal poetry had “the skill of a solved crossword puzzle.” He thought of poetry as a glimpse, leaving readers “to guess about what is seen during a moment.”

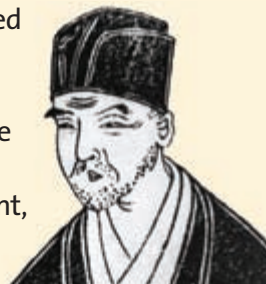


Matsuo Bashō

1644–1694

Wandering Poet

Matsuo Bashō is considered one of Japan’s greatest poets. He set the rules for haiku, poems that describe a single moment of discovery, or enlightenment, using only 17 syllables.



Complete the activities in your **Reader/Writer Notebook**.

Authors Online

Go to [thinkcentral.com](https://www.thinkcentral.com). KEYWORD: HML6-609



Message from a Caterpillar

Lilian Moore



Don't shake this
bough.
Don't try
to wake me
5 now.

In this cocoon
I've work to
do.
Inside this silk
10 I'm changing
things.

I'm worm like now
but in this
dark
15 I'm growing
wings. **A**

A PARAPHRASE

Reread lines 12–16.
Restate what is going on
inside the cocoon.



FOG

Carl Sandburg

The fog comes
on little cat feet. **B**

B METAPHOR
What is the fog
compared to?

It sits looking
over harbor and city
5 on silent haunches¹
and then moves on. **C**

C IMAGERY
What does this poem
help you see and even
hear?

1. **haunches:** the hind legs of a
four-legged animal.



Two Haiku

Bashō

Winter solitude—
in a world of one color
the sound of the wind.

A field of cotton—
as if the moon
had flowered. **D**

D PARAPHRASE

Explain in your own words the images in these haiku that appeal to your senses of sight and sound.

Comprehension

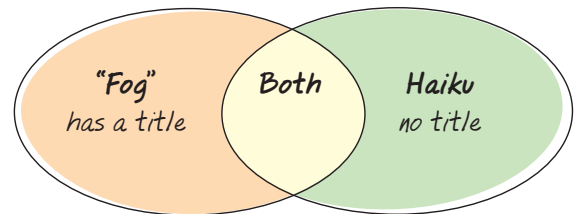
1. **Clarify** Why doesn't the caterpillar in "Message from a Caterpillar" want to be awakened?
2. **Clarify** In the first haiku, what does "a world of one color" refer to?
3. **Represent** Sketch the image the second haiku creates in your mind.



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Literary Analysis

4. **Make Inferences** What larger meaning could be found in the last two lines of "Message from a Caterpillar"?
5. **Analyze Metaphor** Carl Sandburg bases his poem "Fog" on a single **metaphor**, or comparison of two things, stated on lines 1–2. How does Sandburg extend the metaphor through the entire poem?
6. **Analyze Haiku** A traditional haiku written in Japanese has only three lines and 17 syllables. The first and third lines have five syllables, and the second line has seven. (Haiku translated into English may not follow this pattern exactly.) Within these strict rules, the poet tries to capture a moment in time, a kind of discovery. What moment of discovery is revealed in each haiku here?
7. **Analyze Imagery** Most haiku contain seasonal imagery. What season is the focus of each of these haiku? What words give you clues?
8. **Compare and Contrast Poems** Compare and contrast "Fog" with the first haiku by Bashō. In what ways are they similar and different? Record your responses in a Venn diagram.
9. **Paraphrase** Review your chart, and write a paraphrase of each poem. In a paraphrase you express every idea, line by line, in your own words. Follow the order of the ideas used in each poem.



Extension and Challenge

10. **Inquiry and Research** From 1912 to 1917, a group of poets formed and called themselves "Imagists." Do research to find out how they were influenced by Japanese poetry such as haiku. Share your findings with the class.

How much can one **WORD** say?

Look back at the word web you created on page 608. Using the web for ideas, write a haiku of your own. Use seasonal imagery. Try to express as much as you can in three short lines.