

## Figurative Language Poem 6 | Answer Key

1. Identify two examples of **personification**: explain what is being personified in each example.

*To meet an antique book, In just the dress his century wore; His venerable hand to take, To times when he was young. His quaint opinions to inspect, His knowledge to unfold Old volumes shake their vellum heads*

2. Identify three examples of **metaphor**: explain which two things are being compared in each example.

*He ate and drank the precious words: words are implicitly compared to food and drink.*

*Nor that his frame was dust: his mortal body is implicitly compared to dust.*

*And this bequest of wings: the freedom of his spirit is compared to wings*

Students may also cite the following, and I would give them credit:

*His presence is enchantment,*

*A precious, mouldering pleasure 't is / To meet an antique book,*

3. Find two examples of **alliteration**. List the alliterative words.

*mutual mind, knew no, danced along the dingy days, bequest of wings / Was but a book, liberty / A loosened*

4. What **tone** does the speaker use in these poems? How does the speaker feel about the subjects of these poems? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

*The tone is wonderful, reverent, venerating, respectful...*

*The speaker holds books in high regard.*

*There are many examples of this tone. Here are some word choices that demonstrate this tone: pleasure, privilege, venerable, warming, tantalize, precious, liberty...*

5. What does the speaker mean by the following lines from XXI, "He knew no more that he was poor, /

Nor that his frame was dust." Why is the man unaware that he is poor? What is meant by "dust frame"?

*The man is not poor because he is rich in knowledge and culture.*

*Since the man is mortal and will surely die, his frame, or body, is little more than dust. In other words, this line expresses the temporal state of all living creatures, but the joy of reading has caused the man to disregard this ever present fact.*

6. Compare and contrast these two poems. How are they similar and different?

*Both of these poems are about books. One focuses on the books themselves; the other describes the benefits of reading. One uses lots of personification; the other uses a lot of metaphor.*