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CLASS – 9

ENGLISH

Beehive

Poem : No Men are Foreign

Part – 2

Comprehension

ARPITA SHARMA

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Metaphor

Remember, no men are strange, no
countries foreign
Beneath all uniforms, a single body breathes
Like ours: the land our brothers walk upon
Is earth like this, in which we all shall lie.
They, too, aware of sun and air and water,
Are fed by peaceful harvests, by war's long
winter starv'd.
Their hands are ours, and in their lines we
read
A labour not different from our own.

Alliteration

army

free verse

Enjambment

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Remember they have eyes like ours that wake
Or sleep, and strength that can be won
By love. In every land is common life
That all can recognise and understand.

Let us remember, whenever we are told
To hate our brothers, it is ourselves
That we shall dispossess, betray, condemn.
Remember, we who take arms against each other

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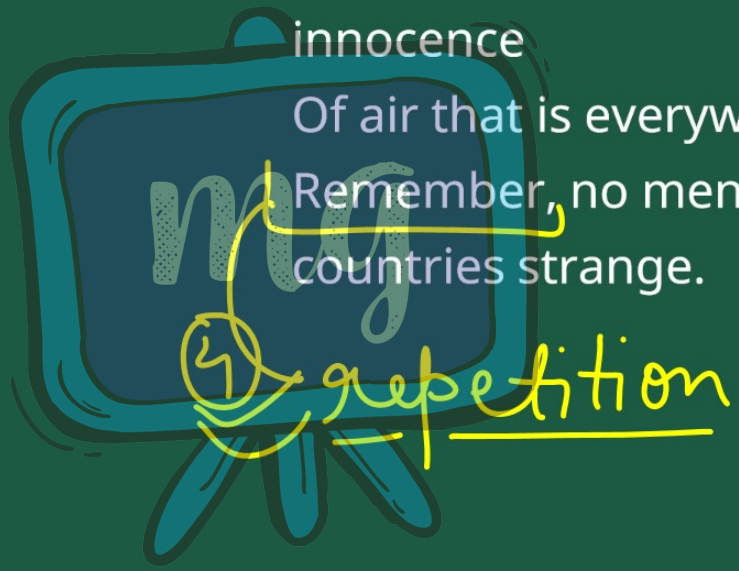
It is the human earth that we defile.
Our hells of fire and dust outrage the innocence
Of air that is everywhere our own,
Remember, no men are foreign, and no countries strange.



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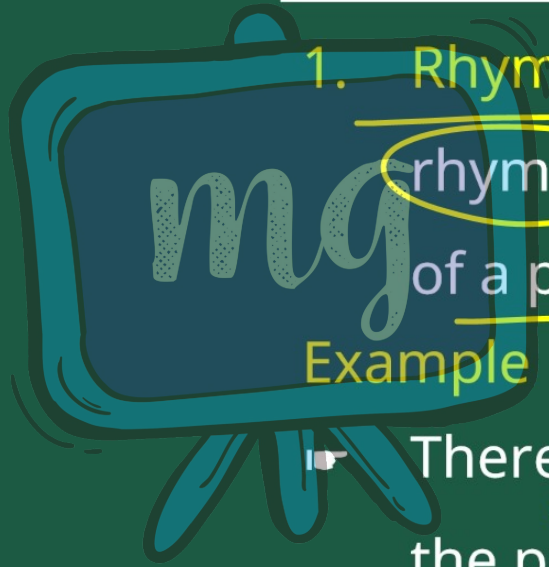
LITERARY DEVICES



1. Rhyme scheme: the pattern of rhymes at the end of each line of a poem or song.

Example

☛ There is no rhyme scheme in the poem. The entire poem is written in free verse.

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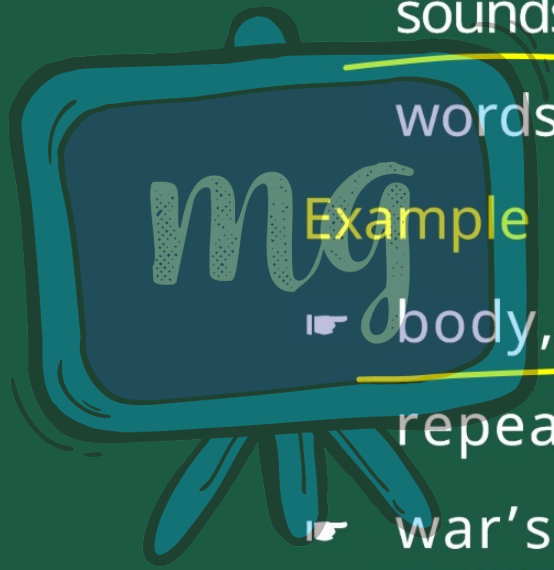
2. Alliteration: repeated consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words.



Example

- body, breathes 'b' sound is repeated (Stanza 1)
- war's, winter 'w' sound is repeated (Stanza 2)

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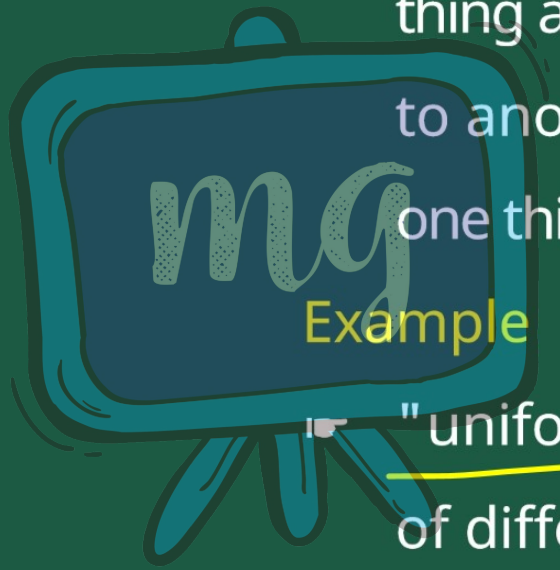
3. Metaphor: the qualities of one thing are figuratively carried over to another or it directly refers to one thing by mentioning another.



Example

- "uniform" refers to the military of different countries (Stanza 1)
- "wars time" is compared to the winter season (Stanza 2)

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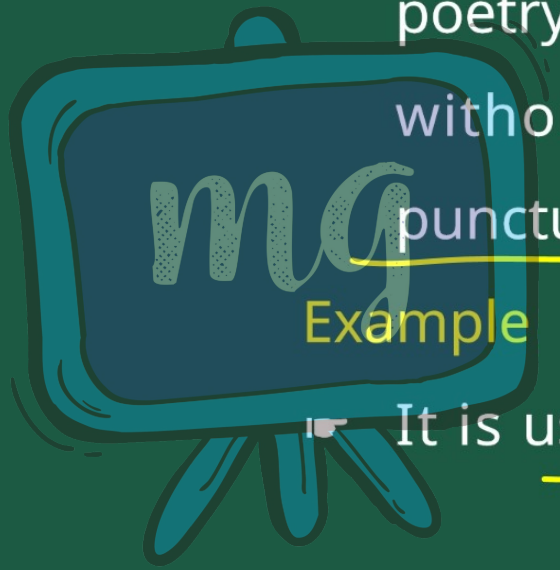
4. Enjambment : running lines of poetry from one line to the next without using any kind of punctuation to indicate a stop.



Example

☛ It is used throughout the poem.

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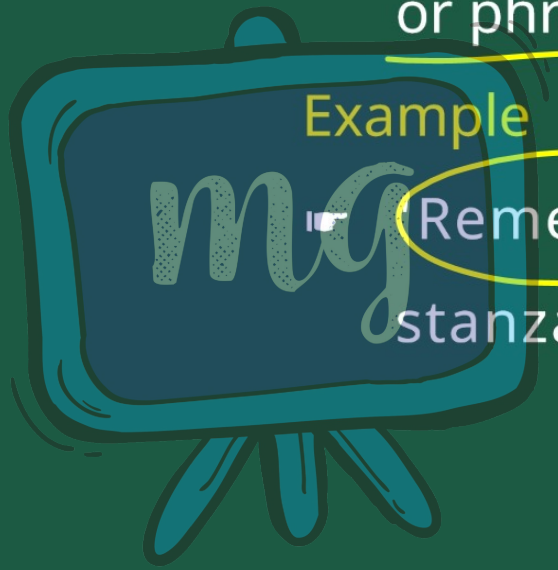
5. Repetition : using the same word or phrase over and over again.



Example

- 'Remember' is repeated in stanzas - 1, 3, 4 and 5.

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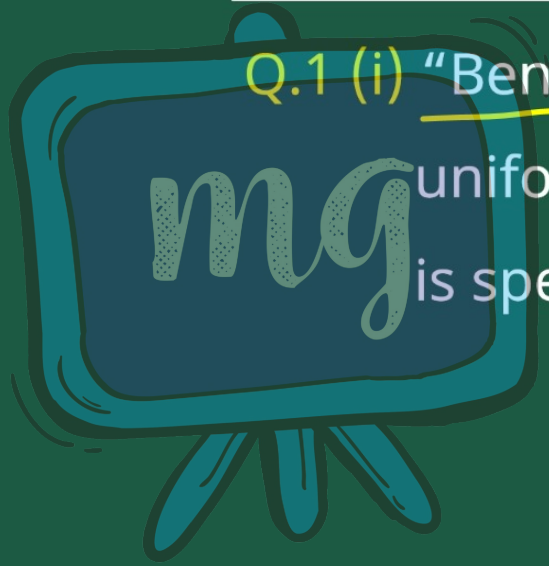
THINKING ABOUT THE POEM



Q.1 (i) "Beneath all uniforms ..." What uniforms do you think the poet is speaking about?

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Answer: “Beneath all uniforms” the poet is referring to the military uniforms that soldiers wear, which represent different countries. These uniforms symbolize the divisions between people based on nationality or conflict. However, the poet suggests that beneath these outward appearances, all people share the same fundamental humanity.

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(ii) How does the poet suggest that all people on earth are the same?



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Answer: The poet suggests that all people on earth are the same by emphasizing their shared experiences, emotions, and vulnerabilities. Despite their differences in nationality, race, religion, or social status, people ultimately face the same joys, sorrows, fears, and hopes.

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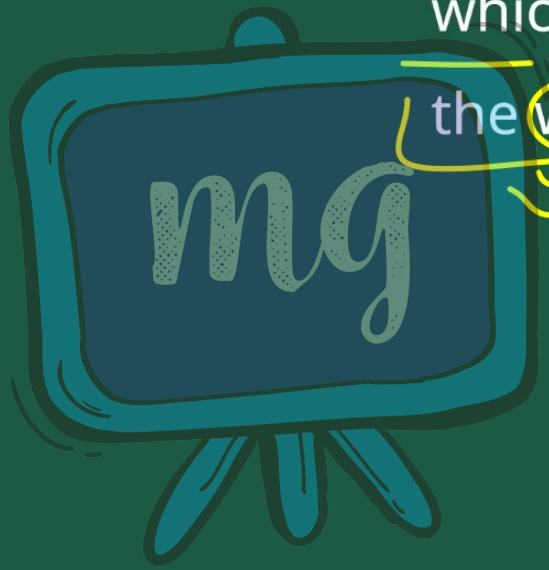
Q.2 In stanza 1, find five ways in which we all are alike. Pick out the words.



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Answer: Here are five ways in which we all are alike, as mentioned in stanza 1:

1) "A single body breathes" (we all have the same body and breathe in the same way).
2) "The same land" (we all live on the same Earth).
3) "Waking, sleeping" (we all share the same routines like waking and sleeping).
4) "Fed by peaceful harvests" (we all eat and benefit from the same earth's resources).
5) "Starved by war" (we all suffer the same way during conflicts).

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Q.3 How many common features can you find in stanza 2? Pick out the words.



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Answer: In stanza 2, the poet mentions the following common features:

A) "Our hells of fire and dust" (suffering caused by wars is the same for everyone).

B) "In their lines we read a labour not different from our own" (people's hard work and labor are the same everywhere).

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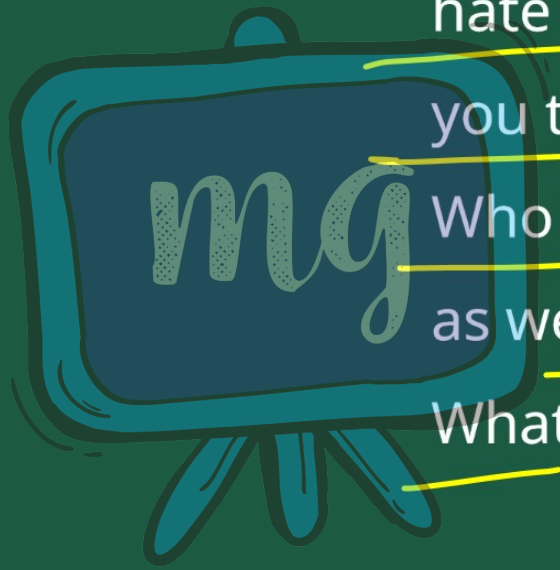
Q.4 "...whenever we are told to hate our brothers..." When do you think this happens? Why? Who 'tells' us? Should we do as we are told at such times? What does the poet say?



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Answer: The poet suggests that we are told to hate our brothers when there is conflict, war, or political unrest. Those who promote hatred might include political leaders, religious figures, or media personalities who seek to manipulate public opinion for their own agendas. The poet advises that we should not follow such instructions, as they go against our shared humanity. He emphasizes that we must remember that we are all the same and not let hatred divide us.