

Imagery

Consider:

At first I saw only water so clear it magnified the fibers in the walls of the gourd. On the surface, I saw only my own round reflection. The old man encircled the neck of the gourd with ~~his thumb and index finger and gave it a shake~~. As the water shook, then settled, the colors and lights shimmered into a picture, not reflecting anything I could see around me. There at the bottom of the gourd were my mother and father scanning the sky, which was where I was.

— Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*

Discuss:

1. What kind of imagery is used in this passage? Circle the images.
2. Compare and contrast the imagery of the last sentence with the imagery of the first four sentences.

Apply:

Write a sentence which uses precise visual imagery to describe a simple action. Share your sentence with a partner.

Vocab words:

- ① Magnify -
- ② Fiber -
- ③ Gourd -
- ④ Encircle -
- ⑤ Shimmer -
- ⑥ Scan -

Lesson: Imagery in Poetry

Name: _____

<p>"Barter," by Sara Teasdale</p> <p>Life has loveliness to sell, All beautiful and splendid things, Blue waves whitened on a cliff, Scaring fire that sways and sings, And children's faces looking up Holding wonder like a cup.</p> <p>Life has loveliness to sell, Music like a curve of gold, Scent of pine trees in the rain, Eyes that love you, arms that hold, And for your spirits still delight, Holy thoughts that star the night.</p> <p>Spend all you have for loveliness, Buy it and never count the cost. For one while singing hour of peace Count many a year of strife well lost, And for a breath of ecstasy Give all you have been, or could be.</p>	<p>"Unrequited Love," by Gary Shteynman</p> <p>The love I felt exists no more I can't believe we're no more Darling how can this even be Don't you even care and see</p> <p>I sleep at night in such hopeless torment My soul resists crying tears of sad lament I once felt at the very pinnacle of my life Now I hang my head only in fear and strife</p> <p>The feeling, passion, and warmth are now all gone We had such fun in love and life, now that's gone My hopes and emotions are swash in this strife My desires and dreams are gone now in my life</p> <p>I gave you all my love Darling slight from my heart And you returned nothing Darling from the very start My soul now cries so sadly in a most horrible hellish fire Knowing my love remains unrequited and my soul on fire</p> <p>The love I felt exists no more I can't believe we're no more Darling how can this even be Don't you even care and see</p>
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Vocab: Use your phone or a computer to check up and write down the definitions of the following words:

- Splendid -
- Sway -
- Strife -
- Ecstasy -
- Torment -
- Lament -
- Pinnacle -
- Unrequited -

Questions: For both poems, list the imagery that appeals to the reader's five senses:

"Barter"

"Unrequited Love"

Sight:

Sight:

Sound:

Sound:

Smell:

Smell:

Touch:

Touch:

Taste:

Taste: