

Poem Assignment: Analyzing Metaphors, Similes and Personification in Poetry.

1.

Read and annotate the following poem, and answer the questions that accompany it.

**“On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer”
by John Keats**

Much have I travell’d in the realms of gold,
 And many goodly states and kingdoms seen;
 Round many western islands have I been
Which bards in fealty to Apollo hold.
Oft of one wide expanse had I been told
 That deep-browed Homer ruled as his demesne;
 Yet did I never breathe its pure serene
Till I heard Chapman speak out loud and bold;
Then I felt I like some watcher of the skies
 When a new planer swims into his ken:
Or like stout Cortez when with eagle eyes
 He star’d at the Pacific—and all his men
Look’d at each other with a wild surmise—
 Silent, upon a peak in Darian.

Note: The reference to Homer in the poem refers to the ancient Greek poet who composed *The Iliad* and *Odyssey*. Chapman is a 16th century poet who translated Homer’s work into English.

Questions:

1. When Keats finds Chapman’s translations, two new similes come to him that support the metaphor of the traveler. What is the first, found in lines 9-10? How does the new identity of the poet resemble his earlier pose as a traveler? How is it different? What sorts of feelings go with each identity?
2. The second simile appears in lines 11-14. Who does the poet feel like now? How do his new feelings form a climax to the poem?
3. Comment on Keats’ use of the traveler metaphor for a poetry reader. Is it an appropriate one? Why or why not? What specific qualities of the traveler reveal the poet’s particular experience with discovering poetry?

2.

Read and annotate the following poem, and answer the question that accompanies it.

**“Composed Upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802”
By William Wordsworth**

Earth has not any thing to show more fair:
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
A sight so touching in its majesty:
This City now doth, like a garment, wear

The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,
Ships towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie
Open unto the fields, and to the sky;
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.
Never did sun more beautifully sleep
In his first splendor, valley, rock, or hill;
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
The river glideth at his own sweet will:
Dear God! The very houses seem asleep;
And all that mighty heart is lying still!

Question:

Analyze and annotate the poem specifically for metaphor, simile, and personification. Be comment especially in your notes on the power/ effect of these figures of speech in describing the subject.