

UNIT 3 A Nation Divided
Slavery and The Civil War 1850 to 1865

A SEEM School
FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL
Home of the Space Generation

The background of the slide is a scenic landscape at sunrise or sunset. A dirt road leads through a wooden fence towards a large tree on the right. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The word "Poetry" is written in a large, white, serif font across the center of the image.

Poetry

WITH
JIM SOTO

Poetry is a form of art in which language is used for its aesthetic and evocative qualities in addition to, or instead of, its usual meaning. Out of the three forms of language, **poetry** is meant to portray its beauty.

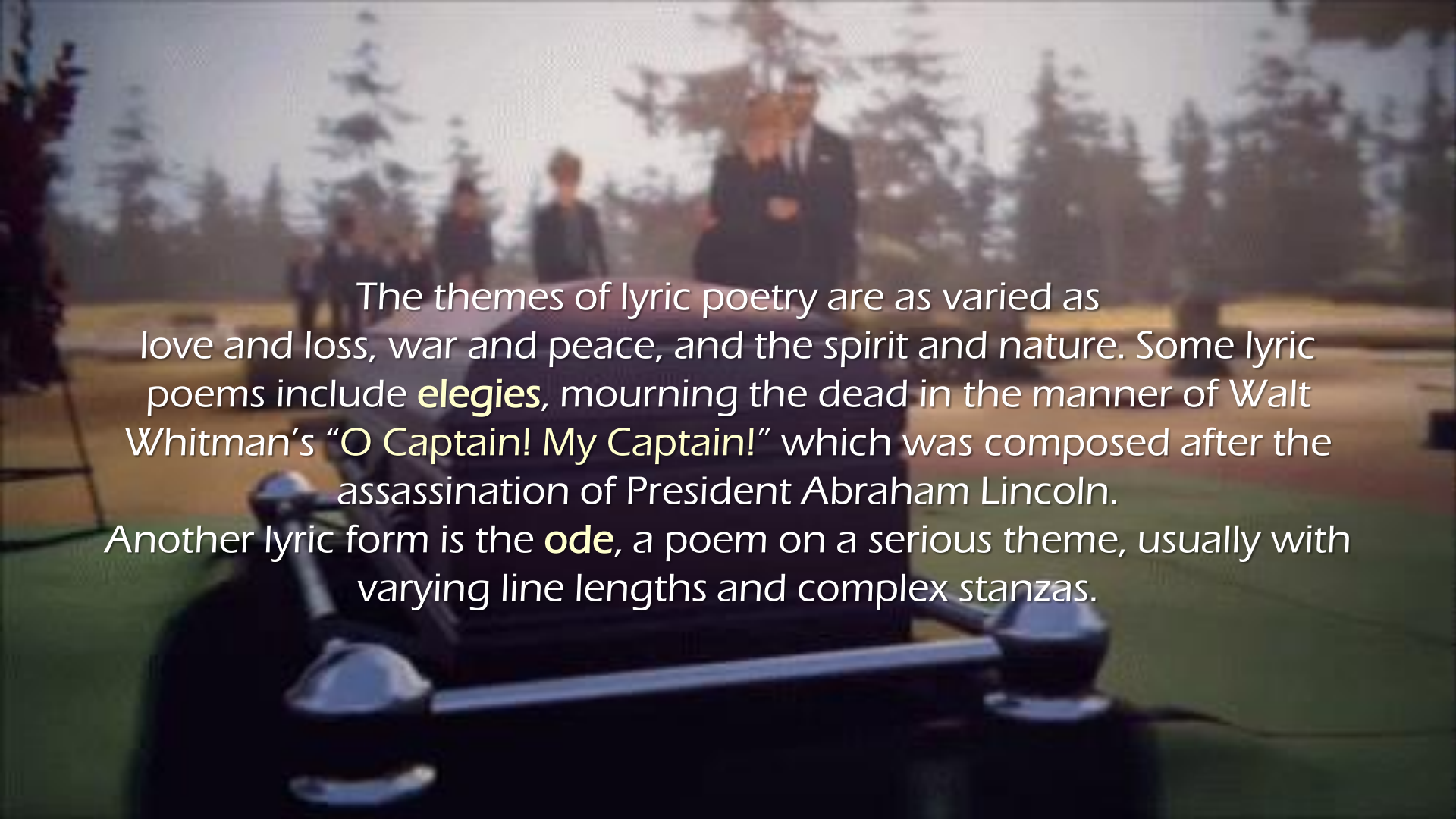
THE TYPES OF POETRY

There are different types of poetry. One thing that poems have in common is their precision; each word of a poem is carefully chosen to convey a tone, viewpoint, and perception of an object or an experience.

Some type include:

- Lyric poems (express emotions)
- Narrative poems (tell a story)
- & Dramatic poems (use monologue and dialogue)





The themes of lyric poetry are as varied as love and loss, war and peace, and the spirit and nature. Some lyric poems include **elegies**, mourning the dead in the manner of Walt Whitman's "O Captain! My Captain!" which was composed after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Another lyric form is the **ode**, a poem on a serious theme, usually with varying line lengths and complex stanzas.



The lyric poems of **Walt Whitman** and **Emily Dickinson** were written in an era when Romanticism was slowly giving way to Realism in literature. Whitman still nurtured the idealism of a Romantic, but he broke with poetic conventions, paying no attention to strict meter and form. Dickinson's strong connection to nature makes her a fellow Romantic, but the sentiment in her work is undercut by a strong sense of Realism.

THE FORM & STRUCTURE OF POETRY

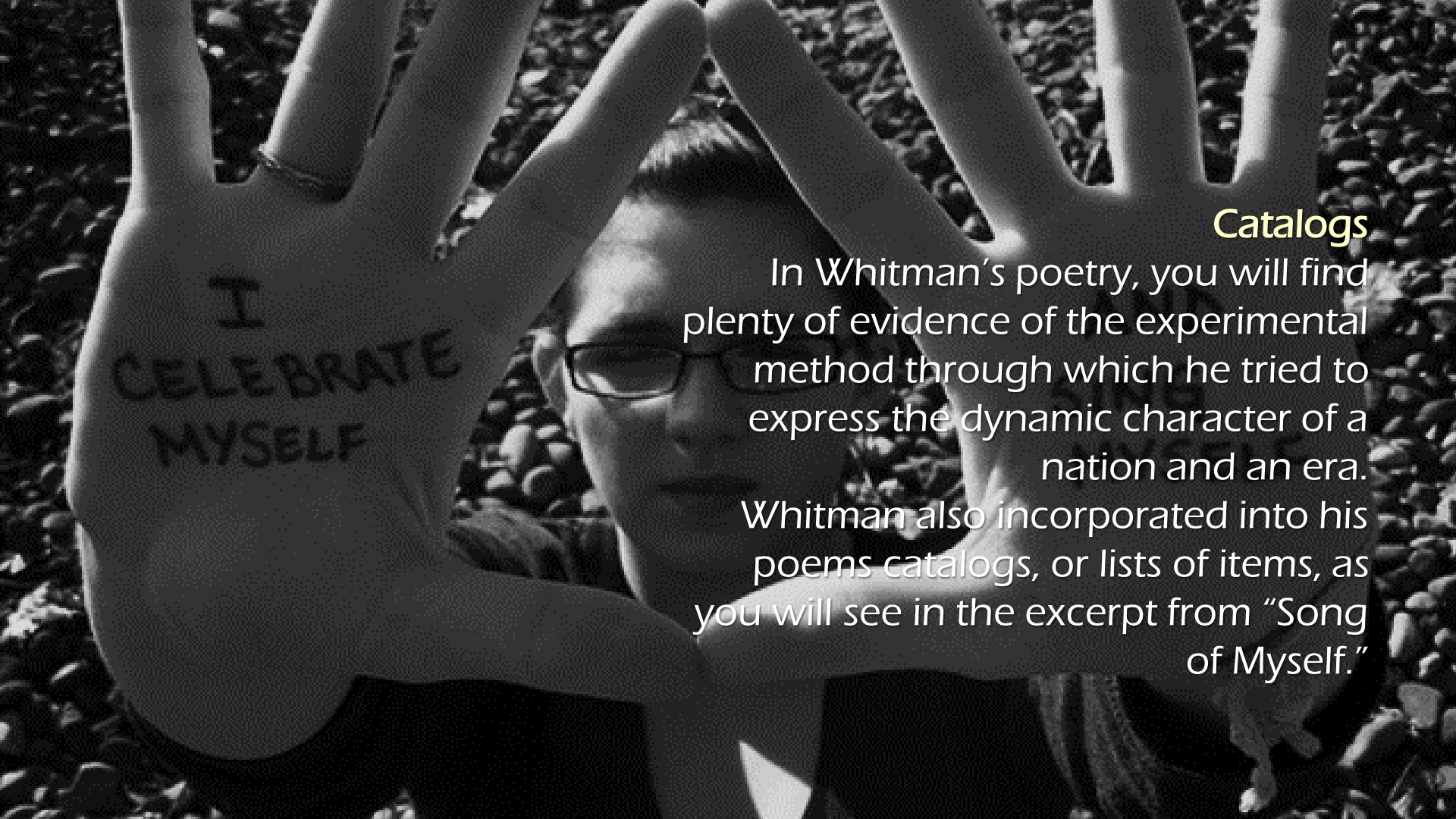
The word “poem” comes from the Greek word *poíma*, which means “work,” and is derived from *poieín*, “to make.” Poetry uses imaginative and musical language to communicate experiences, thoughts, or emotions. Of all the literary forms, it packs the most meaning into the fewest words.

Because poetry is often arranged in lines and stanzas and not sentences and paragraphs, it has more freedom than prose in its ordering of words.

Rhyme

Some forms of poetry use the repetition of sounds at the ends of words to create rhyme, as in *day* and *away*. Different types include:

- **Internal rhyme** is rhyme that occurs within lines; end rhyme is rhyme that occurs at the ends of lines.
- **Slant rhyme**, or **near rhyme**, is the use of words that do not rhyme exactly but have a similar sound, as in *rave* and *rove* or *rot* and *rock*.
- **Rhyme scheme** is the pattern of end rhyme designated by assigning a different letter of the alphabet to each rhyme, for example, *abab*.
- **Enjambment** is continuing a statement beyond the end of a line, rather than the end-stopped line of verse, in which both the sense and the grammar are complete at the end of the line.



I
CELEBRATE
MYSELF

Catalogs

In Whitman's poetry, you will find plenty of evidence of the experimental method through which he tried to express the dynamic character of a nation and an era. Whitman also incorporated into his poems catalogs, or lists of items, as you will see in the excerpt from "Song of Myself."

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Figurative language

Is that which is meant to be understood figuratively instead of literally. It's used in all types of writing but is especially common in poetry. We already saw:

Metaphor

A figure of speech which involves an implied comparison between two relatively unlike things using a form of be. The comparison is not announced by like or as.





Simile

Involves a direct comparison between two unlike things, usually with the words **like** or **as**.

Personification

Here an animal, a thing, a force of nature, or an idea is described as if it were human or is given human qualities.

Understatement

It describes something as having much less of a particular quality than it does. It's the opposite of hyperbole.

THE SOUNDS OF POETRY

Poets use many techniques to make music out of words. The common sound effects used in poetry are also used in the songs you hear. Poetry often uses certain devices to achieve musical effects. These can evoke emotional responses. The most important one is called **rhythm**.



Rhythm

The pattern of beats, or stresses, in a line of poetry is called rhythm. Rhythm can be **regular** or **irregular**. A regular rhythmic pattern is called a **meter**. Typically, stressed syllables are marked with a [/] and unstressed syllables with a [∪]. The metrical pattern is determined by the number of beats, or stresses, in each line. Stressed and unstressed syllables are divided into rhythmical units called **feet**. Lets look at part of a poem with meter by Edgar Allan Poe.

WITH METER

Annabel Lee

by Edgar Allan Poe

It was many and many a year ago,
In a kingdom by the sea,
That a maiden there lived whom you may know
By the name of ANNABEL LEE;—
And this maiden she lived with no other thought
Than to love and be loved by me.
She was a child and I was a child,
In this kingdom by the sea,
But we loved with a love that was more than love—
I and my Annabel Lee—
With a love that the winged seraphs of heaven
Coveted her and me.

Free verse

Until late in the 19th century all English poetry was written with a strict concern for meter. Some poets began to rebel against this established way and insisted in creating new “rhythm” in order to create new moods. Meter was thus abandoned. Free verse was embraced.

Free verse is a term describing various styles of poetry that are not written using strict meter or rhyme, but that rather sound like prose but still are recognizable as poetry by virtue of complex patterns of one sort or another that readers will perceive to be part of a coherent whole. Lets look at a free verse poem by Carl Sandburg.

FREE VERSE

Fog

by Carl Sandburg

The fog comes

on little cat feet.

It sits looking
over harbor and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.



OTHER DEVICES USED INCLUDE...

Alliteration

The repetition of initial sounds in neighboring words. It's also the matching or repetition of consonants. Example: The **p**ompey **p**ipped at the **P**ost as **P**ippo **p**ounces.

Assonance

The repetition of vowel sounds in stressed syllables that end with different consonant sounds. An example is the repetition in Dickinson's "Because I could not stop for Death—" of the long a sound: "We passed the fields of **G**azing **G**rain."

ASSESSMENT

1. What is the purpose of poetry as one of the forms of a language?
2. Which are poetic equivalents for sentences and paragraphs?
3. Which are two types of lyric poetry?
4. What makes the poetry of Walt Whitman stand out? The poetry of Emily Dickinson?
5. What is the difference between rhythm and rhyme?
6. Contrast internal with end rhyme.
7. In the context of poetry, what are feet?
8. How are poems written in meter different from those written in free verse?
9. What is alliteration? assonance?



Jim Soto © 2022