English – Unit 2

Curious George





Poetry vs. prose?

Lesson 1



What is poetry?

so much depends
upon

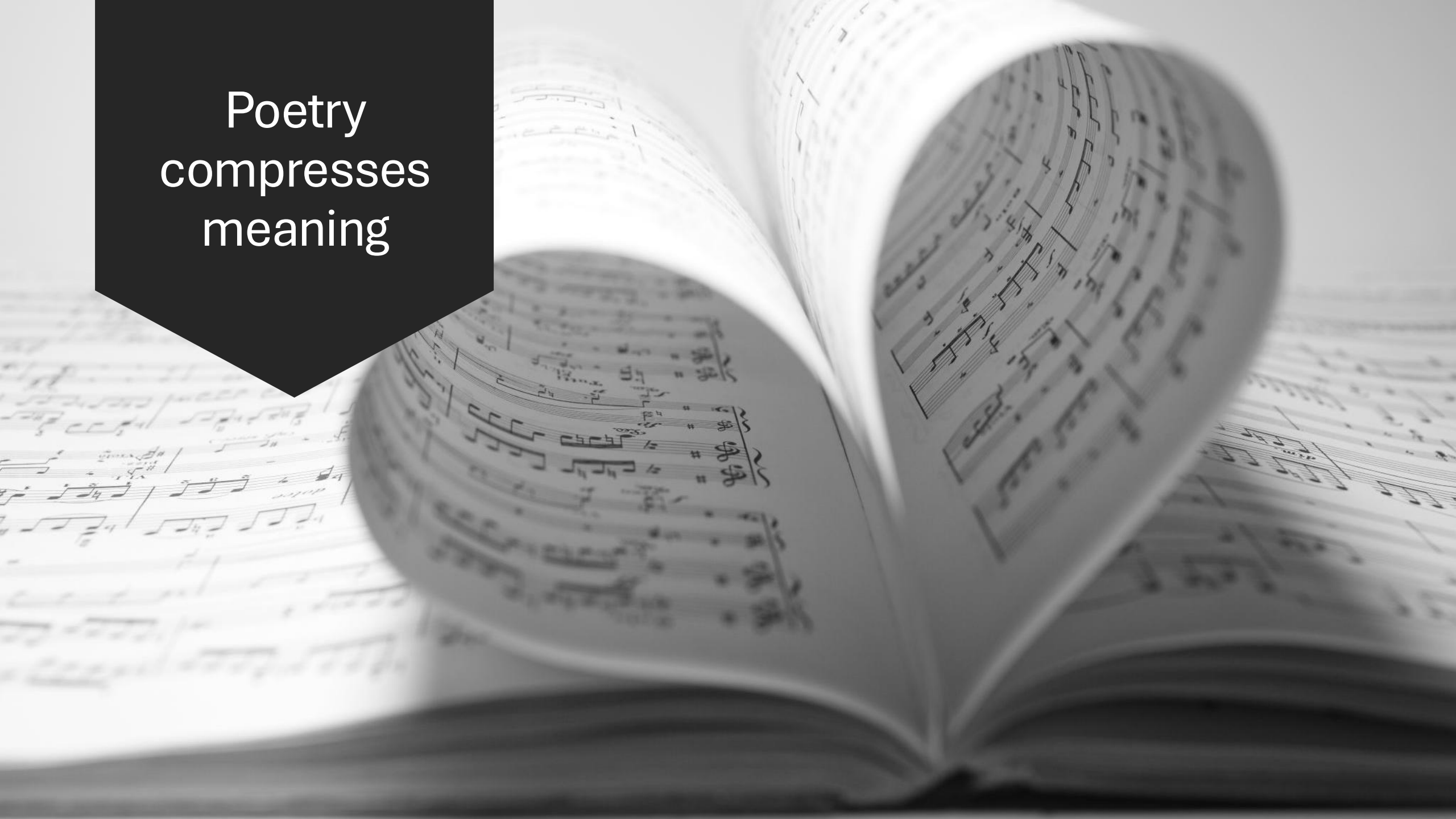
a red wheel
barrow

glazed with rain
water

beside the white
chickens.



Poetry compresses meaning



Poetry

Makes us slow down

Capture a moment (a snapshot)

But also gives us details behind the moment



so much depends
upon

a red wheel
barrow

glazed with rain
water

beside the white
chickens.

"A red wheelbarrow sits beside several white chickens after the rain. Many things depend upon it."

Is this the same work?

Next 5 lessons

- Margaret Atwood — “This Is a Photograph of Me”
- Earle Birney — “David”
- Rita Joe — “I Lost My Talk”
- Michael Ondaatje — “The Cinnamon Peeler”

Four poems.
Six lessons.
Many ways of seeing.

Remember the literary lenses from Unit 1:

- Formalism
- Psychological
- Marxist
- Feminist
- Reader Response

Lesson 2 – Imagery & Symbolism

Formalist critics ask:

- **How does the text create meaning?**
- **Why were these artistic choices made?**
- **How do language and structure affect our understanding?**

Formalism

What Is Imagery?

Imagery is language that appeals to our senses in order to shape our experience of a text.

Imagery may appeal to:

- 👁️ Sight
- 👂 Sound
- 👃 Smell

What is symbolism?

What Is Symbolism?

A symbol is something concrete that also carries larger ideas.

A symbol begins with something real.
It then invites readers to think beyond its literal meaning.

Literal Object → Possible Symbolic Meanings
Photograph → Memory, truth, identity
Mountain → Challenge, sacrifice, morality
Language → Identity, belonging, culture
Cinnamon → Identity, intimacy, memory












D BOY

The Cinnamon Peeler



Featured Poet: Michael Ondaatje

Featured Poem: The Cinnamon Peeler

- Born in Colombo, Sri Lanka (1943)
- Immigrated to Canada after spending part of his youth in England
- Poet, novelist, memoirist, and internationally celebrated author
- Best known for The English Patient
- Known for vivid sensory language and rich imagery

Symbolism in "The Cinnamon Peeler"

Symbol: Cinnamon

Literal meaning:
A spice harvested by the speaker.

Possible symbolic meanings:

- Identity
- Intimacy
- Memory
- The lasting marks people leave on one another

Lesson 3

Voice & Perspective

Margaret Atwood - “This Is a Photograph of Me”

1966

It was taken some time ago.
At first it seems to be
a smeared
print: blurred lines and grey flecks
blended with the paper;

then, as you scan
it, you see in the left-hand corner
a thing that is like a branch: part of a tree
(balsam or spruce) emerging
and, to the right, halfway up
what ought to be a gentle
slope, a small frame house.

In the background there is a lake,
and beyond that, some low hills.

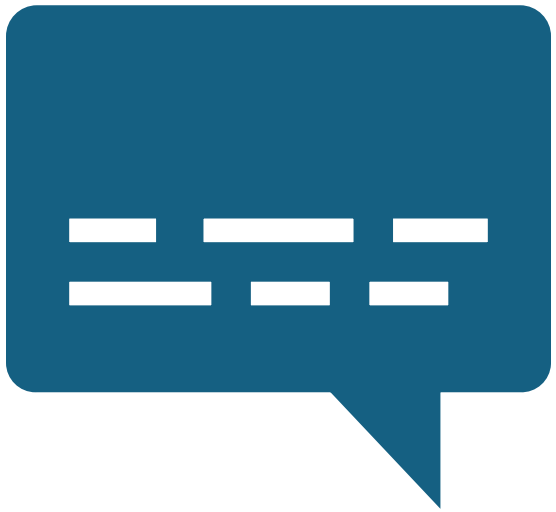
(The photograph was taken
the day after I drowned.

I am in the lake, in the center
of the picture, just under the surface.

It is difficult to say where
precisely, or to say
how large or small I am:
the effect of water
on light is a distortion

but if you look long enough,
eventually
you will be able to see me.)

Reader response



What did you notice?

Theme, Feeling, Message

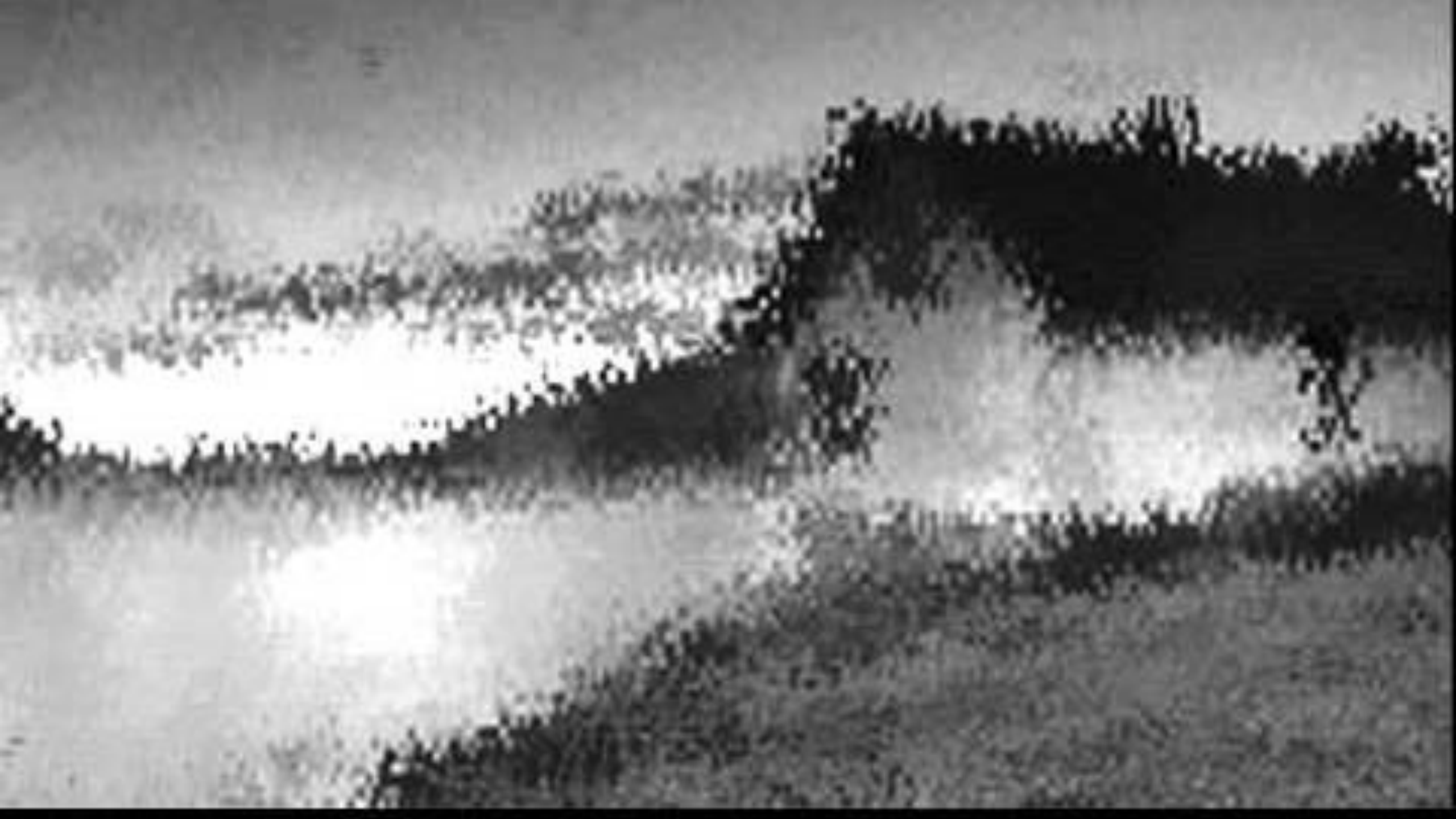
What is the *voice* of the speaker in the poem?


Voice: who is speaking?
Perspective: How are they seeing the event?

Experiencing the same event differntly











Margaret Atwood

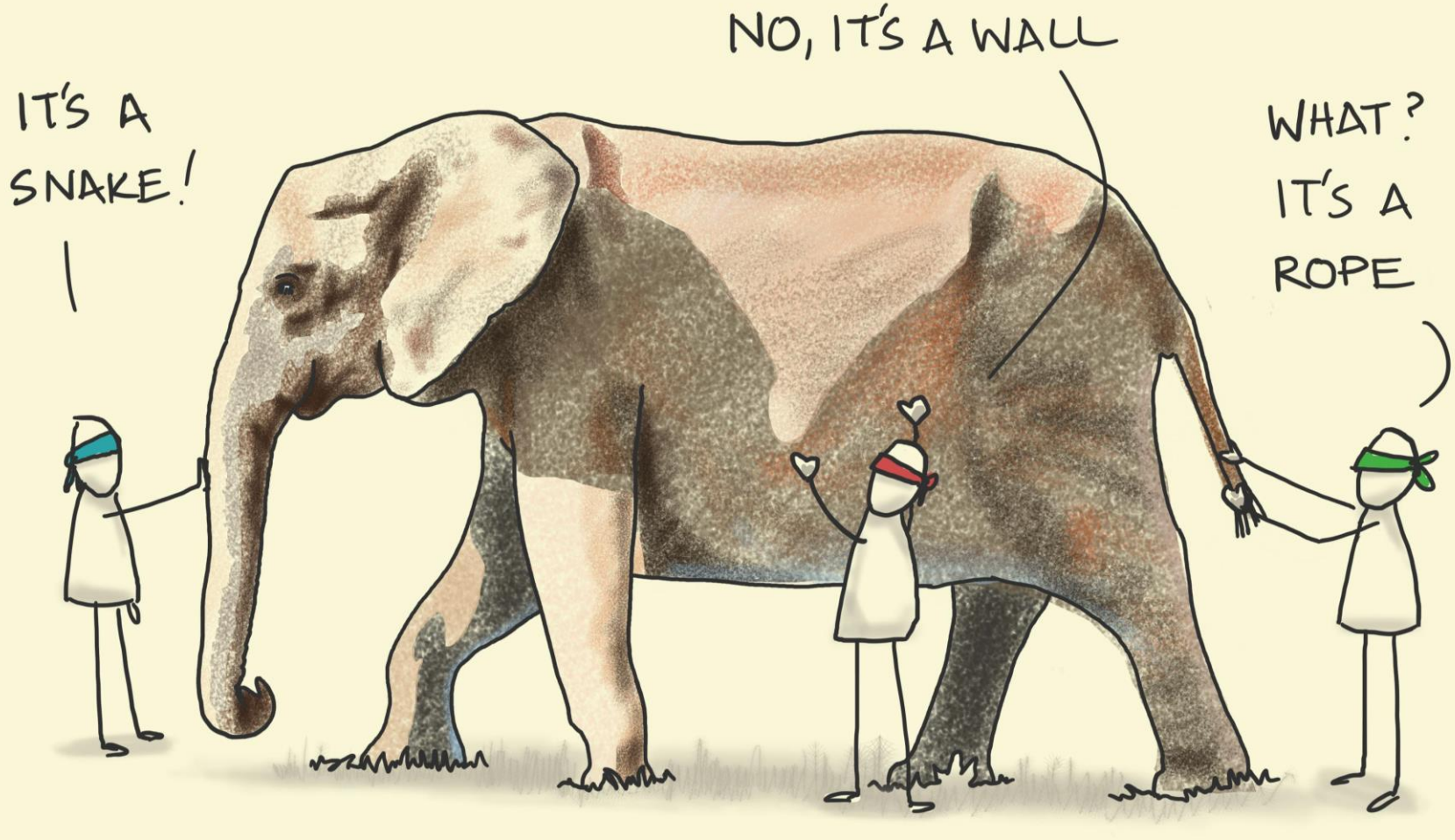
Featured Poem:
This Is a Photograph of Me

Born in Ottawa (1939)

- One of Canada's most influential writers
- Poet, novelist, essayist, and literary critic
- Frequently explores memory, identity, power, and perception

THE BLIND AND THE ELEPHANT

OUR OWN EXPERIENCE IS RARELY THE WHOLE TRUTH





The words don’t change – we do!

Below the surface

Appearance vs. Reality

Identity vs. invisibility

How many people we encounter every day without really seeing them? We may notice their physical presence without recognizing their experiences, struggles, identities, or potential.

Lesson 4

Diction, Sound & Structure: Building Emotional Experience

Send to me:

Read and analyse the poem David

- Find instances of:
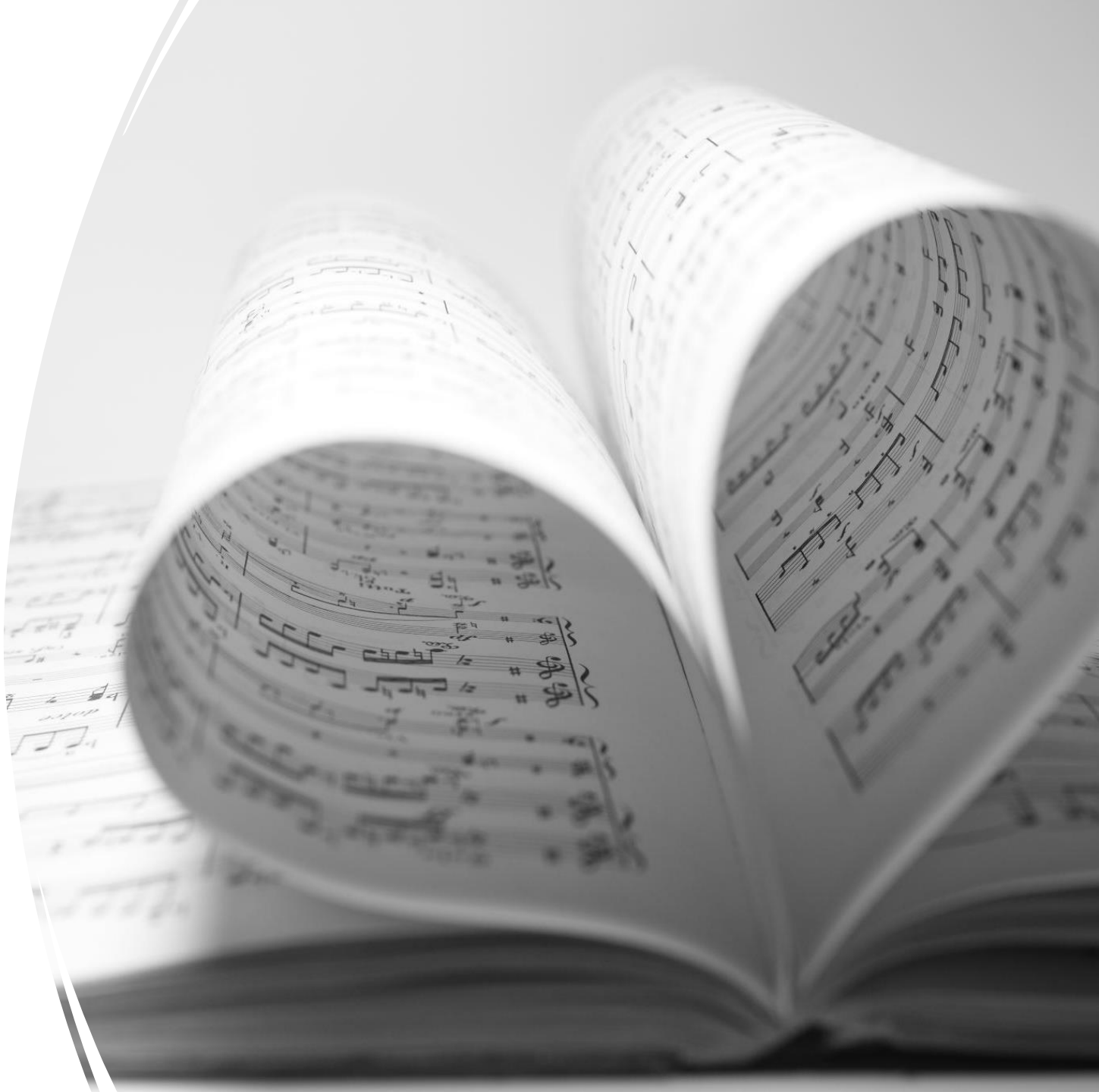
- Symbolism
- Imagery
- Voice Perspective
- Sound
- Structure
- Emotions

