

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Pd. \_\_\_\_\_

## Concrete Imagery

**Image**—a word or sequence of words that refers to a sensory experience; any noun that refers to a picture or sensation.

**Imagery**—a collection of sense images that helps the reader visualize scenes, hear sounds, feel textures, smell aromas, and taste things described in the work; references that appeal to one or more of the reader's senses.

*Poets use images to help translate their unique feelings and experiences  
into something concrete and tangible to which the reader can relate.*

**Instructions:** Read the following poems and answer the questions, paying special attention to their images.

### *Washing My Face*

Last night's dreams disappear  
They are like the sink draining:  
A transparent rose swallowed by its stem.

*Gregory Orr*

1. What is literally happening in this poem? What do you know about the speaker?
2. What are the central images in this poem? What sense do they stimulate?
3. What kind(s) of emotions do these images make you feel? What effects do they have on you?
4. What do these images say about the speaker's tone (attitude toward the subject of the poem)?
5. (Bonus) What types of figurative language are in this poem? What effects do they have?

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### *The Piercing Chill I Feel*

The piercing chill I feel:  
my dead wife's comb, in our bedroom,  
under my heel. . .

*Taniguchi Buson*

1. What can you tell about the speaker and the experience in this poem? What conclusions can you draw (and support from the text)?

2. Identify the sensory images in this poem. To what senses do they appeal?
3. How does this poem make you feel? Why?

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*Castoff Skin*

She lay in her girlish sleep at ninety-six.  
small as a twig.  
Pretty good figure.

for an old lady, she said to me once.  
Then she crawled away, leaving  
a tiny stretched transparence

behind her. When I kissed her paper cheek  
I thought of the snake,  
of his quick motion.

*Ruth Whitman*

1. What is literally happening in this poem? What is the speaker describing?
2. How do you think the speaker feels about what's happening?
3. How do you know? (Prove it!)
4. Identify all the images in this poem and the senses to which they appeal.
5. Explain the central metaphor in "Castoff Skin"?