

Metaphors

Name: _____

Date: _____ Pd.: _____

I'm a riddle in nine syllables,
An elephant, a ponderous house,
A melon strolling on two tendrils.
O red fruit, ivory, fine timbers!
This loaf's big with its yeasty rising.
Money's new-minted in this fat purse.
I'm a means, a stage, a cow in calf.
I've eaten a bag of green apples,
Boarded the train there's no getting off.

Sylvia Plath

Annotate: interact with the poem by writing your own notes/thoughts beside it!

Identifying the literal terms of this poem's metaphors is the key to understanding Speaker, Story, and Tone. Answer the following questions to help you solve the mystery!

1. With what specific images and metaphors does the speaker identify himself or herself? List them.
2. What associations or ideas connect many of these images/comparisons? What do they share in common?
3. What do you perceive to be the speaker's tone? What is the speaker's attitude toward the subject/story of the poem? How do you know? Prove it! (Give specific evidence from the text to support your claim.)
4. How does the form (structure) of this poem contribute to its meaning?