

Casey at the Bat

Find:

hyperbole
imagery

* find 4 unknown words
and use context clues to

define
them.
write
definition

It looked extremely rocky for the Mudville nine that day;
The score stood two to four, with but an inning left to play.
So, when Cooney died at second, and Burrows did the same,
A pallor¹ wreathed the features of the patrons of the game.

5 A straggling few got up to go, leaving there the rest,
With that hope which springs eternal within the human breast.
For they thought: "If only Casey could get a whack at that,"
They'd put even money now, with Casey at the bat.

10 But Flynn preceded Casey, and likewise so did Blake,
And the former was a pudd'n, and the latter was a fake.
So on that stricken multitude a deathlike silence sat;
For there seemed but little chance of Casey's getting to the bat.

15 But Flynn let drive a "single," to the wonderment of all.
And the much-despised Blakey "tore the cover off the ball."
And when the dust had lifted, and they saw what had occurred,
There was Blakey safe at second, and Flynn a-huggin' third.

20 Then from the gladdened multitude went up a joyous yell—
It rumbled in the mountaintops, it rattled in the dell;²
It struck upon the hillside and rebounded on the flat;
For Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the bat.

1. pallor (pāl'or): extreme paleness.

2. dell: valley.

Find:

3 examples
of imagery

One example
of personification



There was ease in Casey's manner as he stepped into his place,
There was pride in Casey's bearing and a smile on Casey's face;
And when responding to the cheers he lightly doffed his hat,
No stranger in the crowd could doubt 'twas Casey at the bat.

25 Ten thousand eyes were on him as he rubbed his hands with dirt,
Five thousand tongues applauded when he wiped them on his shirt;
Then when the writhing³ pitcher ground the ball into his hip,
Defiance glanced in Casey's eye, a sneer curled Casey's lip.

30 And now the leather-covered sphere came hurtling through the air,
And Casey stood a-watching it in haughty grandeur there.
Close by the sturdy batsman the ball unheeded sped;
"That ain't my style," said Casey. "Strike one," the umpire said.

35 From the benches, filled with people, there went up a muffled roar,
Like the beating of the storm waves on the stern and distant shore.
"Kill him! Kill the umpire!" shouted someone on the stand;
And it's likely they'd have killed him had not Casey raised his hand.

40 With a smile of honest charity great Casey's visage⁴ shone;
He stilled the rising tumult,⁵ he made the game go on;
He signaled to the pitcher, and once more the spheroid flew;
But Casey still ignored it, and the umpire said, "Strike two."

"Fraud!" cried the maddened thousands, and the echo answered "Fraud!"
But one scornful look from Casey and the audience was awed;
They saw his face grow stern and cold, they saw his muscles strain,
And they knew that Casey wouldn't let the ball go by again.

45 The sneer is gone from Casey's lips, his teeth are clenched in hate,
He pounds with cruel vengeance his bat upon the plate;
And now the pitcher holds the ball, and now he lets it go,
And now the air is shattered by the force of Casey's blow.

50 Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright,
The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light;
And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout,
But there is no joy in Mudville: Mighty Casey has struck out.

3. writhing (rith'ing): twisting, as in pain or embarrassment.

4. visage (viz'ij): face.

5. tumult (tōō'mült'): a disorderly disturbance.

Conne

1. Wh
Wh
the
poe
feel
How
abo

Think C

2. Wha
the p
3. How
situa
- Thi
• h
• h
tl
• h
is

4. ACTI

Look
The B
class
wrote
answ

Extend I

5. The V
overs
exam
descr
mour
hyper
Conne
succes
perfor
pers