

“The Cremation of Sam McGee” – Figurative Language

Stanza 1

There are strange things done in the midnight sun
by the men who toil for gold;
The Arctic trails have their secret tales
that would make your blood run cold;
The Northern Lights have seen queer sights,
but the queerest they ever did see
Was that night on the marge of Lake Lebarge
I cremated Sam McGee.

1. _____ In line one, what figurative language device is used?
2. _____ In line five, what figurative language device is used?

Stanza 2

Now Sam McGee was from Tennessee, where the cotton blooms and blows.
Why he left his home in the South to roam ‘round the Pole, God only knows.
He was always cold, but the land of gold seemed to hold him like a spell;
Though he’d often say in his homely way that “he’d sooner live in hell.”

3. _____ In line one, what figurative language device is used?
4. _____ In line three, what figurative language device is used?
5. _____ In line four, what figurative language device is used?

Stanza 4

And that very night, as we lay packed tight in our robes beneath the snow,
And the dogs were fed, and the stars o’erhead were dancing heel and toe,
He turned to me, and “Cap,” says he, “I’ll cash in this trip, I guess;
And if I do, I’m asking that you won’t refuse my last request.”

6. _____ In line two, what figurative language device is used?
7. _____ In line three, what figurative language device is used?

Stanza 8

Now a promise made is a debt unpaid, and the trail has its own stern code.
In the days to come, though my lips were dumb, in my heart how I cursed that load.
In the long, long night, by the lone firelight, while the huskies, round in a ring,
Howled out their woes to the homeless snows—O God! how I loathed the thing.

8. _____ In line one, what figurative language device is used?
9. _____ In line three, what figurative language device is used?
10. _____ In line four, identify the **letter** representing **consonance** apparent in this line.

Stanza 9

And every day that quiet clay seemed to heavy and heavier grow;
And on I went, though the dogs were spent and the grub was getting low;
The trail was bad, and I felt half mad, but I swore I would not give in;
And I'd often sing to the hateful thing, and it hearkened with a grin.

11. _____ In line four, what figurative language device is used?

Stanza 12

Then I made a hike, for I didn't like to hear him sizzle so;
And the heavens scowled, and the huskies howled, and the wind began to blow.
It was icy cold, but the hot sweat rolled down my cheeks, and I don't know why;
And the greasy smoke in an inky cloak went streaking down the sky.

12. _____ Identify the same figurative language device used in lines 1 & 2.

13. _____ In line four, what figurative language device is used?

Stanza 13

I do not know how long in the snow I wrestled with grisly fear;

14. _____ Identify the **letter** representing **assonance** apparent in this line.

Stanza 14

And there sat Sam, looking cool and calm, in the heart of the furnace roar;
And he wore a smile you could see a mile, and he said: "Please close that door.
It's fine in here, but I greatly fear you'll let in the cold and storm—
Since I left Plumtree, down in Tennessee, it's the first time I've been warm."

15. _____ In line one, what figurative language device is used?

16. _____ In line two, what figurative language device is used?

BONUS

Stanza 7

There wasn't a breath in that land of death, and I hurried, horror-driven,

_____ In the above line, what figurative language device is used? (*a part is made to represent the whole*)

The answer is **NOT** posted in the word choice.

Word choice:

Apostrophe (1)	Hyperbole (2)	Idiom (1)
Metaphor (1)	Onomatopoeia (1)	Oxymoron (1)
Personification (4)	Simile (1)	Alliteration (1)
Repetition (1)		