

# FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ANALYSIS BUNDLE

Using 8 DIVERSE Short Stories



Comprehension & Analysis

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# Figurative Language Analysis Bundle

## COMPREHENSION & ANALYSIS

# SUSPENSE: "Click-Clack the Rattlebag"

PURPOSE	"Click-Clack the Rattlebag" by Neil Gaiman is a fictional spooky short story about a narrator who is looking after his girlfriend's younger brother. The young boy asks for the narrator to put him to bed upstairs and tell him a scary story.
MATERIAL	"Click-Clack the Rattlebag" - this prov Common Lit, which is a free education frequently. You can opt to find it throug search.
OBJECTIVE(S)	Students will analyze how the author's creates suspense (RL.9-10.5).

# SUSPENSE: "Click-Clack the Rattlebag"

**Instructions:** This entire short story takes place as the narrator and young boy are climbing the stairs. In each staircase below, map out events in chronological order that build suspense. Label each event with at least one element of suspense (as learned in our bell ringer).

ELEMENTS OF SUSPENSE			
ACTION(S)	URGENCY	DIALOGUE	ENVIRONMENT
Actions that are <b>ominous</b> —suggesting an impending evil—or <b>obscure</b> —unknown or hidden—build suspense.	Timing can build suspense (i.e. nighttime approaching means the dark is coming).	Dialogue can reveal tension, motives, and/or untrustworthiness between characters which builds suspense.	The details within a story's setting can build suspense (i.e. a creepy noise in a haunted house).

USING THE TABLE ABOVE, LABEL AT LEAST ONE ELEMENT OF SUSPENSE FOR EACH OF THE 5 EVENTS YOU'VE CHOSEN →

5.  
4.

SUSPENSEFUL EVENT 5

SUSPENSEFUL EVENT 4

**Suspense is built** when readers are **tensely, excitedly, or mysteriously anticipating an outcome.**

**Consider a murder mystery movie or book.** A GOOD murder mystery does not tell us who the killer is right away.

They **build suspense** to keep us **hooked.**



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## What's Included:

- 8 editable bell ringers to introduce the element
- 8 suggested 50 min. standards-aligned lesson plans with linked material, extension ideas, & more
- 8 scaffolded analysis activities
- 8 optional short answer response worksheets with a creative prompt and text-to-text, -world, -self connection questions

There are many "right" answers to the following questions, evidence from the short story, other texts (i.e. novels, movies) support your claims.

1. Author Neil Gaiman believes, "Short stories are tiny windows into other dreams." Based on his quote and his short story infer about Gaiman's world, mind, and/or dreams?

Answers will vary. A possible answer might be... Throughout the short story, there's an emphasis on people expect and what people don't pay attention to.

2. Why might people...

Answers will vary. Knowing who...

- 3.



## POV affects every story told.

Consider your own life experiences and this example below when thinking about POV.

**A dad and his teen agreed upon a 10 P.M. curfew. The teen arrived home 5 minutes late.**

**Examine** the scene below. Choose **either the person on the bike or the person driving**, then **write 2-4 sentences** from **that person's POV**.



Students will be introduced to the figurative language element in a bell ringer activity with guided practice. Fully editable option.





Theme in Naomi Shihab Nye's "Stay True Hotel"	Simile, Metaphor, & Imagery in Sandra Cisneros' "Puro Amor"
Characterization in Amy Tan's "Fish Cheeks"	Irony in Ken Liu's "The Paper Menagerie"
Point of View in Dax Everitt's "Crowd"	Symbolism in Jason Reynolds' "Eraser Tattoo"
Conflict in Muaddi Durrqj's "Gyroscopes"	Suspense in Neil Gaiman's "Click-Clack the Rattlebag"

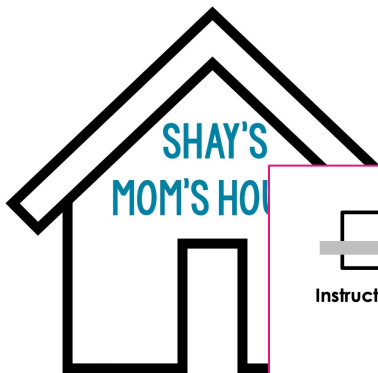
Students read the corresponding diverse short story. Check out the 8 short story titles.





## SYMBOLISM: "Eraser Tattoo"

Instructions: For each of the 3 symbols below, cite a quote, then analyze the quote for its symbolic meaning.

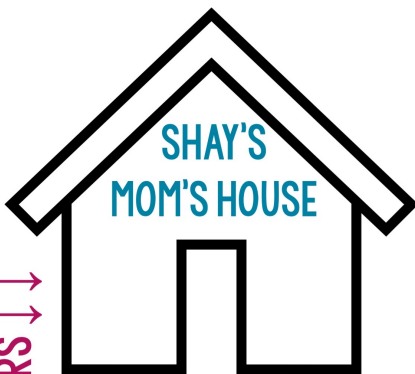


WHAT DOES THE HOUSE SYMBOLIZE TO SHAY'S MOM?

QUOTE	ANALYSIS

## SYMBOLISM: "Eraser Tattoo"

Instructions: For each of the 3 symbols below, cite a quote, then analyze the quote for its symbolic meaning.



WHAT DOES THE HOUSE SYMBOLIZE TO SHAY'S MOM?

QUOTE	ANALYSIS
"[Shay's mother] couldn't stop crying. This had been her home for over twenty years [...] This was where Shay took her first steps" (Reynolds).	To Shay's mom, the house symbolizes milestone memories of raising her daughter.

WHAT DOES THE ERASER TATTOO SYMBOLIZE TO DANTE & SHAY?

QUOTE	ANALYSIS
"[Dante] knew the stigma [of the tattoo]"	To the young couple, the tattoo symbolizes their love enduring the insecure challenge of a long-

EXAMPLE ANSWERS



Students collect and analyze evidence of the figurative language element in a scaffolded analysis activity. Answer keys included.

## SIMILE, METAPHOR, & IMAGERY: "Puro Amor"

There are many "right" answers to the following questions, so it's all about how you support your ideas. Use evidence from the short story, other texts (i.e. novels, movies, songs, etc.), and your own experiences to support your claims.

1. Cisneros' short story is inspired by the tumultuous relationship of famous artists **Frida Kahlo** and **Diego Rivera**. Read along with [this children's story](#) about Kahlo's love for animals. In bullet points, list the resemblances you notice between the character Missus and Frida Kahlo.

*Answers will vary. Possible answers may include: La Casa Azul, their love of unique animals (i.e. parrots, fawn), they're both artists, they both suffered from illnesses, they both embraced stereotypically "masculine" attitudes and behaviors, etc.*

## CONFLICT: "Gyroscopes"

There are many "right" answers to the following questions, so it's all about how you support your ideas. Use evidence from the short story, other texts (i.e. novels, movies, songs, etc.), and your own experiences to support your claims.

2. Why might people

*Answers will vary.*

3. Share your own experience with a pet? If so, how did you support your ideas about animals, why is it important to

*Answers will vary.*

1. In paragraph 85, Layla's mother shares an analogy and a rhetorical question—a question meant to make a point rather than to get an answer: "'It's like someone stepping on your toes and not moving off. Do you have to really explain how the pressure is causing you pain?'" What does this analogy communicate about the impact of racist stereotypes?

*Answers will vary. A possible answer might mention how this analogy communicates that, despite it being difficult to explain or justify, it doesn't mean the stereotypes or racism do not have a negative impact that can be felt by those who belong to the targeted community.*

2. Why is it important to continue speaking out against stereotypes and racism, even if it feels like others might not be listening?

*Answers will vary. If students are struggling, ask them to think of historical figures who spoke against racism even when their voice was silenced (i.e. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.).*

Students can complete an option short-answer worksheet with text-to-text, -world, and -self connections. A creative prompt is also included.

