

## Literary Analysis

### FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Poets often use **figurative language**—words that communicate ideas beyond their literal meaning—to help them convey strong emotions. Here are two types of figurative language that Milton uses in his sonnets.

- **metaphor:** a comparison between two seemingly unlike things
- **personification:** the attribution of human qualities to an object, animal, or idea

**Directions:** Reread the following lines. Identify each of the underlined figures of speech as *personification* or *metaphor*. Then complete the sentence.

1. How soon hath Time, the subtle thief of youth,  
Stoln on his wing my three and twentieth year!  
My hasting days fly on with full career,  
But my late spring no bud or blossom show’th \_\_\_\_\_
2. “Perhaps my semblance might deceive the truth,  
That I to manhood am arrived so near,  
And inward ripeness doth much less appear  
That some more timely-happy spirits endu’th.” \_\_\_\_\_
3. “I fondly ask; but Patience to prevent  
That murmur, soon replies, “God doth not need  
Either man’s work or his own gifts; who best  
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best.” \_\_\_\_\_
4. All three of these examples of figurative language have to do with Milton’s intense feelings about \_\_\_\_\_