

Meaning of Words and Phrases Chart

Identify phrases with vivid imagery, figurative language or connotative meanings in *Casey at the Bat* and complete the chart below.

Phrase with Vivid Imagery, Figurative Language, or Connotative Meaning	What I Visualize	How does this word choice impact the meaning and tone of the poem?
<p>Stanza 1:</p> <p>The Outlook wasn't brilliant for the Mudville nine that day:</p> <p>The score stood four to two, with but one inning more to play.</p> <p>And then when Cooney died at first, and Barrows did the same, A sickly silence fell upon the patrons of the game.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I see a baseball stadium that is full of fans • I see a scoreboard light up with the score 4 -2 in the 9th inning • I see two out on the scoreboard 	<p>The author uses words to help the readers create a visual image of the players striking out, the spectators being silent, and an overall negative, worrisome, and suspenseful tone.</p>
<p>Stanza 2:</p> <p>A straggling few got up to go in deep despair. The rest</p> <p>Clung to that hope which springs eternal in the human breast;</p> <p>They thought, if only Casey could get but a whack at that –</p> <p>We'd put up even money, now, with Casey at the bat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I see the crowd moving around in their seats • I see the crowd having different expressions on their faces: some worried, some concerned, some excited 	<p>The author uses the phrase, "deep despair" to describe the concern the fans have about the future of the game. This shows a negative, sad tone.</p>
<p>Stanza 3:</p> <p>But Flynn preceded Casey, as did also Jimmy Blake,</p> <p>And the former was a lulu and the latter was a cake;</p> <p>So upon that stricken multitude grim melancholy sat,</p> <p>For there seemed but little chance of Casey's getting to the bat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I see multiple players taking their turn at bat and striking out • I see the crowd become more and more restless and unhappy with their players 	<p>The author describes the different batters as "lulu" and "cake" to show that they were not strong hitters and struck out. The author also describes the crowd as "stricken multitude grim melancholy" to show their worry and despair deepening and their chances of Casey getting to bat lessened.</p>
<p>Stanza 4:</p> <p>But Flynn let drive a single, to the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I see the batter hitting the 	<p>This description adds tension to the</p>

<p>wonderment of all,</p> <p>And Blake, the much despis-ed, tore the cover off the ball; And when the dust had lifted, and the men saw what had occurred, There was Jimmy safe at second and Flynn a-hugging third.</p>	<p>ball and running to first base</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I see the runners advancing to fill the bases 	<p>poem and builds suspense for the upcoming moment when Casey will finally get up to bat.</p>
<p><i>Stanza 5:</i></p> <p>Then from 5,000 throats and more there rose a lusty yell; It rumbled through the valley, it rattled in the dell; It knocked upon the mountain and recoiled upon the flat, For Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the bat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>I “see” a physical representation of a very big, loud yell being released and coming through the stadium.</i> ● <i>I “see” a physical representation of a very big, loud yell hitting a mountain and bouncing off.</i> 	<p>This adds to the meaning of the poem because it helps the reader visualize the loud excitement that the crowd had in Casey as a batter.</p>
<p><i>Stanza 6:</i></p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I see Casey making his way to home plate with his bat ● I see a tall and strong player walking with confidence and raising his hat to the crowd’s cheers ● I see the fans cheering and looking excited and relieved to see Casey at bat 	<p>This stanza gives us our first look at Casey. I think it adds to the excitement of Casey taking the plate because we can “see” his confidence and arrogance as he is ready for his turn at bat.</p>
<p><i>Stanza 7:</i></p> <p>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 while the writhing pitcher ground the ball into his hip, Defiance gleamed in Casey’s eye, a sneer curled Casey’s lip.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I see Casey bending down next to home plate and rubbing his hands with dirt ● I see the crowd erupting with cheers as he wipes his hands ● I see the pitcher stretching and warming his arm up ● I see Casey’s expression shift to extremely focused 	<p>I think this adds to the tension and has the reader on the edge of their seat.</p>

<p>Stanza 8:</p> <p>And now the leather-covered sphere came hurtling through the air,</p> <p>And Casey stood a—watching it in haughty grandeur there.</p> <p>Close by the sturdy batsman the ball unheeded sped—</p> <p>“That ain’t my style,” said Casey.</p> <p>“Strike one,” the umpire said.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I see the pitcher throwing the ball toward Casey • I see Casey in his batting stance staring at the ball as it approaches home plate • I see the catcher catching the ball as Casey stays still • I see Casey dropping his bat and shaking his head as she speaks to the umpire • I see the umpire holding his arm up to call the strike 	<p>This stanza describes the first pitch at a slow pace. I think the author describes Casey’s ability to stay confident and choose to let the pitch go without even attempting to swing at the pitch.</p>
<p>Stanza 9:</p> <p>From the benches, black with people, there went up a muffled roar,</p> <p>Like the beating of the storm—waves on a stern and distant shore.</p> <p>“Kill him! Kill the umpire!” shouted someone on the stand;</p> <p>And its likely they’d a—killed him had not Casey raised his hand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I see a stadium with every seat filled with people • I hear deafening cheers echoing from every direction. • I see the sound of the crowd bouncing off of Casey like he is their own personal ship and they are the ocean. 	<p>The words “a muffled roar” show the excitable tone of the text. The word “roar” also shows how many people were relying on Casey to hit a homerun. It shows the disappointment and anger of the crowd brought about by the idea that they may lose.</p> <p>The simile, “Like the beating of the storm-waves on a distant shore” is used to increase the reader’s understanding of how loud the stadium was.</p>
<p>Stanza 10:</p> <p>With a smile of Christian charity great Casey’s visage shone;</p> <p>He stilled the rising tumult; he bade the game go on;</p> <p>He signaled to the pitcher, and once more the spheroid flew;</p> <p>But Casey still ignored it, and the umpire said, “Strike two.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I see Casey looking around the field • I see Casey gesturing to the pitcher to throw another pitch • I see Casey letting another pitch go • I see the umpire signaling another strike to the crowds 	<p>The author describes this to show Casey’s confidence not wavering as he puts himself in a position of 2 outs and 2 strikes. The words “stilled the rising tumult” help</p>
<p>Stanza 11:</p> <p>“Fraud!” cried the maddened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can hear the full stadium 	<p>The author described this to show the excitement and anger that was building in the stadium at this turning</p>

<p>thousands, and echo answered fraud;</p> <p>But one scornful look from Casey and the audience was awed.</p> <p>They saw his face grow stern and cold, they saw his muscles strain, And they knew that Casey wouldn't let that ball go by again.</p>	<p>screaming at Casey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can hear the echo of the crowd bouncing the scream back into the stadium at the crowd • I can sense the embarrassment of the crowd when they realize their hero is disappointed in them • I can see Casey's expression go from angry, as he faces the crowd, to serious and focused as he faces the pitcher again • I can see the confidence in Casey's batting stance as he waits for the next pitch 	<p>point in the game and in the poem.</p> <p>Before this stanza Casey had the crowd on his side, but the crowd is now beginning to have some doubt about Casey's ability to win the game for them.</p> <p>The author describes this moment in order to show that Casey still has power over the crowd, and is still extremely confident, although it seems he has made bad decisions since he has been up to bat.</p> <p>The author describes this moment in order to show the way Casey realizes this is his last chance to win the game for his team, and for his fans. He needs to get serious and focused if he is going to get a run and win the game.</p>
<p>Stanza 12:</p> <p>The sneer is gone from Casey's lip, his teeth are clenched in hate;</p> <p>He pounds with cruel violence his bat upon the plate.</p> <p>And now the pitcher holds the ball, and now he lets it go,</p> <p>And now the air is shattered by the force of Casey's blow.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I see Casey standing, big and tall, focusing on the ball. Hitting his bat on the plate to make the pitcher nervous. • I can see the pitcher standing on the mound winding up for a big pitch • I can imagine the ball going in slow motion toward Casey's bat 	<p>The words "clenched in hate" and "pounds with cruel violence" contribute to the negative tone of the poem. The words "the air is shattered by the force of Casey's blow" build the tension for the reader. It leaves the reader on the edge of their seat thinking and hoping that Casey will surely hit the ball and save the day!</p>
<p>Stanza 13:</p> <p>Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright;</p> <p>The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light, And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can see the crowd looking devastated as the stadium empties out • I can imagine people looking happy in a far off place 	<p>The author describes happy people in places other than Mudville to show the extreme disappointment that the entire town feels in the loss of the game. The people of Mudville are particularly disappointed that Casey</p>

But there is no joy in Mudville –
mighty Casey has struck out.

was not able to save the day and
instead allowed his arrogance by
waiting for a perfect pitch get in the
way of taking chances to hit a run in
without the drama of a home run.