

## Task for *Burial Rites*

### Analysing language

One of the ways in which Hannah Kent brings a previously unfamiliar world to life and develops a bleak atmosphere, is through her uses of simile and metaphor. These features of her writing create vivid imagery and establish the beauty but alienation of Agnes's world.

To study the uses and effects of figurative language, you will be assigned one of the following examples. Locate it within the text then identify its effect and your response.

#### Similes:

	<b>Example (Including page number)</b>	<b>Effect and response: How does it make meaning?</b>
1.	<i>...leaving Tóti standing still, holding the letter away from him as though it were about to catch fire. (p. 10)</i>	
2.	<i>She had killed two men. Slaughtered them like animals... It slipped through his mouth like milk. (p. 32)</i>	
3.	<i>They have strapped me to the saddle like a corpse being taken to the burial ground. (p.35)</i>  <i>I wonder where they will store me, cellar me like butter, like smoked meat. Like a corpse, waiting for the ground to unfreeze before they can pocket me in the earth like a stone. (p. 36)</i>	
4.	<i>A tight fear, like a fishing line, hooked upon something that must, inevitably, be dragged from the depths. (p. 51)</i>	
5.	<i>Like a woman, he said. The sea is a nag. (p. 36)</i>	
6.	<i>Is it necessary to keep her bound like a lamb ripe for slaughter? (p. 46)</i>  <i>I wonder if the Reverend sees me like that lamb. (p. 101)</i>	

7.	<i>I howled like the blizzard outside.</i> (p. 148)	
8.	<i>He is as fragile as a child without the bluster and idiocy of youth.</i> (p. 101)	
9.	<i>... the air is as thin as paper.</i> (p. 254)	
10.	<i>His mouth is opening and shutting like a fish, the bones of his face like knives under his skin.</i> (p. 317)	
11.	<b>Others:</b>	

**Metaphors:**

	<b>Example (Including page number)</b>	<b>Effect and response: How does it make meaning?</b>
1.	<i>... we are all candle flames,</i> (p. 1)	
2.	<i>... the two-headed lamb was born at Stapar.</i> (p. 100)	
3.	<i>It takes a man, a good man, to know how to manage a woman who has made her bed among stones.</i> (p. 44)	

4.	<i>I feel drunk with summer and sunlight.</i> (p. 103)	
5.	<i>... in between the stones of my teeth.</i> (p. 218)	
6.	<i>He would give me springtime.</i> (p. 222)	
7.	<i>The salt came.</i> (p. 254)	
8.	<i>Only the outlying tongues of rock scarred the perfect kiss of sea and sky ... (p.265)</i>	
9.	<i>The fire had died. Only a thin glowing crust of live ember flickered amid the ashes. The wind had not stopped wailing.</i> (p. 292)	
10.	<i>The sting of stars.</i> (p. 298)	
11.	<b>Others:</b>	