

## Figurative Language Poem 5

### Sleep

By Annie Matheson

SOFT silence of the summer night!  
 Alive with wistful murmurings,  
 Enfold me in thy quiet might:  
 Shake o'er my head thy slumb'rous wings,  
 So cool and light:  
 Let me forget all earthly things  
 In sleep to-night!

Tired roses, passionately sweet,  
 Are leaning on their cool green leaves,  
 The mignonette<sup>1</sup> about my feet  
 A maze of tangled fragrance weaves,  
 Where dewdrops meet:  
 Kind sleep the weary world bereaves  
 Of noise and heat.

White lilies, pure as falling snow,  
 And redolent<sup>2</sup> of tenderness,  
 Are gently swaying to and fro,  
 Lulled by the breath of evening less  
 Than by the low  
 Music of sleepy winds, that bless  
 The buds that grow.

### Review Questions

**Directions:** Respond to these questions to the best of your ability. Answer the questions completely. If you need more space, use the back or a separate sheet.

1. Identify three examples of **personification**: explain each example.
2. Identify two examples of **simile**: explain which two things are being compared in each simile.
3. Identify two examples of **metaphor**: explain which two things are being compared.
4. What is the **mood** of this poem? How does this poem make you feel? Refer to text in your response.
5. What is the subject of this poem? What is it about? Explain your response.
6. What is the **tone** of this poem? How does the speaker treat the subject of the poem? Refer to text.



The air is like a mother's hand  
 Laid softly on a throbbing brow,  
 And o'er the darksome, dewy land  
 The peace of heaven is stealing now,  
 While, hand in hand,  
 Young angels tell the flowers how  
 Their lives are planned.

From yon deep sky the quiet stars  
 Look down with steadfast eloquence,  
 And God the prison-door unbars  
 That held the mute world's inmost sense  
 From all the wars  
 Of day's loud hurry and turbulence;  
 And nothing now the silence mars  
 Of love intense.

1. A plant with spikes of small fragrant flowers
2. Strongly reminiscent or suggestive of something