“HOME OF THE BRAVE” by Katherine Applegate
TEACHER’S GUIDE by Carolee Dean
Poetic and Literary Devices

*Home of the Brave* is a verse novel by Katherine Applegate. It is the story of a teenage boy named Kek, a Sudanese refugee who saw his father and brother killed in Africa and then came to America to live with his aunt. The spare verse is accessible for students ages 10 and up, yet the themes of relocation, ostracism, and political oppression make this book of interest for high school students as well, especially low readers (high interest-low readability). It fits well with themes of African studies. The variety of poetic and literary devices found in this story make it a good resource for covering those topics in preparation for SBA testing.

This teacher’s guide focuses primarily on exploring the poetic and literary devices found in the novel. It is geared toward low readers. The index on page 2 gives brief directions for each of the activities.

For additional teacher guides and other free writing tips visit the Teacher Resources Page at [http://caroleedeans.blogspot.com](http://caroleedeans.blogspot.com).

Questions or comments may be directed to caroleedean@yahoo.com

Carolee Dean is a young adult author as well as a high school speech-language pathologist. Check out her books at [www.caroleedean.com](http://www.caroleedean.com).
INDEX

p. 3 Metaphors
(Pass out this sheet and also display it on overhead or document camera. Discuss the examples of metaphor from the book and have students brainstorm examples that you write on the board. Then have the class do the assignment, creating examples of metaphor following the directions on the handout).

p. 4-7 Literary Terms – Treasure Hunt
p. 4 - Terms Overhead – (Use this overhead to go over the terms metaphor, simile, personification, and onomatopoeia)

p. 5 – Examples from the book - (You may either copy these and hand these out to students, or cut them apart and post them around the room like a true treasure hunt).

p. 6 – Treasure Hunt Worksheet – (Have students write down the number of the sentence that is an example of each literary device AND write down the sentence AND underline the part of the sentence that is in bold that helps them know what kind of device is being used. Number 2 is an example of personification because the car is acting like a person, but some may think it is onomatopoeia because coughs and burps are sounds. You can debate this if you want. Do the words cough and burp sounds like coughs and burps? You can have them try to say the words so they sound like what they are describing.)

p. 7 – Answers Overhead – (project this on the board to go over the answers)

p. 8-12 More Literary/Poetic Terms
p. 8 – Pass out the list of literary terms and review the definitions.

p. 9-12 Overhead – (Project the examples from the book found on pages 9-12 and discuss which devices are being used in each example. You may want to cover up the terms until the students have a chance to refer to page 8 to guess which devices are being used. Several passages use multiple devices.)

p. 13-16 TESTS

p. 13-14 Practice Tests (let students use the page 8 definitions of literary devices to do the two practice tests.

p. 15-16 Combined Test (This test covers the same items as the practice test. Have students attempt this without the page 7 list. This is a good practice for SBA.)

p. 17 – test answers

Carolee Dean, SLP (permission to reprint for educational purposes)
http://caroleedeanbooks.blogspot.com
METAPHORS
from Home of the Brave by Katherine Applegate

Directions: Before you get started, read the poem on page 150 and discuss as a class. On a separate piece of paper write 10 lines of metaphor. They may be 10 different metaphors, or you may start with one metaphor and then write a poem based on that metaphor. Use the following examples to guide you.

Hunger is a wild dog
gnawing on a dry bone,
mad with impatience
but hoping still.

A metaphor often uses a concrete symbol (something that can be seen or heard or touched) to represent an abstract concept like hunger or death or love.

Summer is ice cream and skate boards
and sweet grass
under your free toes.

A metaphor may be used to describe a season by listing some of the things that happen during that season.

A cow is god with a wet nose.

A metaphor may also be used to draw comparisons between two concrete objects to expand the understanding of the thing being described or to draw a comparison.
Literary Devices:
(for use with overhead)

**Metaphor**- comparing two things without using like or as…
Ex. *Love is a battlefield.*

**Simile**- comparing two things using like or as
Ex. Love *is like* a battlefield.  Love *is as* dangerous *as* a battlefield.

**Personification**- giving human qualities to a non-human object or animal.
Ex. The *moon laughed* at me.

**Onomatopoeia**- words that sound like you say them…moo, meow, buzz, hiss
Ex. The cat *hissed.* (the word “hiss” sounds like a hiss.)
Home of the Brave TREASURE HUNT

Directions: cut apart and glue on construction paper. Put up around the room and ask students to write down the examples on the Literary Devices worksheet.

#1 This cold is like claws on my skin.

#2 His car is red and coughs and burps.

#3 A cow is god with a wet nose.

#4 She moos, a harsh and mournful sound.

#5 Only the snow talks.

#6 Inside my school, the floor shines like ice.

#7 When I take a breath of icy air, it is like swallowing an arrow.

#8 Hunger is a wild dog

#9 A car whooshes past.

#10 Summer is ice cream and skate boards.

Carolee Dean, SLP (permission to reprint for educational purposes)
http://caroleedeanbooks.blogspot.com
Literary Devices Treasure Hunt:  Name:_________________________

**Metaphor**- comparing two things without using like or as…
Ex. *Love is a battlefield.*

**Simile**- comparing two things using like or as
Ex. *Love is like a battlefield.  Love is as dangerous as a battlefield.*

**Personification**- giving human qualities to a non-human object or animal.
Ex. The *moon laughed* at me.

**Onomatopoeia**- words that sound like you say them…moo, meow, buzz, hiss
Ex. The cat *hissed.* (the word “hiss” sounds like a hiss.)

---

**HOME OF THE BRAVE TREASURE HUNT**

**Directions:** Find the sentences from *Home of the Brave* that are examples of the literary devices listed above and write them on the lines below. Write the number next to the line. Write the number first, before you write the sentence. Circle the part of the sentences that lets you know what kind of literary device it is. This will be in **BOLD** in the sentence.

Metaphor:

#______________________________________________________________________.
#______________________________________________________________________.
#______________________________________________________________________.

Simile:

#______________________________________________________________________.
#______________________________________________________________________.
#______________________________________________________________________.

Personification:

#______________________________________________________________________.
#______________________________________________________________________.

Onomatopoeia:

#______________________________________________________________________.
#______________________________________________________________________.

Carolee Dean, SLP (permission to reprint for educational purposes)
http://caroleedeanbooks.blogspot.com
ANSWERS:

Metaphor:
#3 A cow is god with a wet nose.
#8 Hunger is a wild dog
#10 Summer is ice cream and skate boards.

Simile:
#1 This cold is like claws on my skin.
#6 Inside my school, the floor shines like ice.
#7 When I take a breath of icy air, it is like swallowing an arrow.

Personification:
#2 His car is red and coughs and burps.
#5 Only the snow talks

Onomatopoeia
#4 She moos, a harsh and mournful sound.
#9 A car whooshes past.
LITERARY AND POETIC DEVICES FOUND IN THE NOVEL

**Alliteration**: the repetition of the initial consonant. There should be at least two repetitions in a row.
Ex. *Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.*

**Assonance**: the repetition of similar vowel sounds in a sentence.
Ex. The hoops of doom.

**Metaphor**: A comparison in which one thing is said to be another.

**Simile**: a figure of speech involving a comparison between unlike things using *like, as,* or *as though.*
Ex. Love *is like* a battlefield.
   - She acts *as though* love were a battlefield.
   - Love *is as* dangerous *as* a battlefield.

**Personification**: giving human qualities to animals or objects.
Ex. The moon *laughed* at me.

**Pun**: A word is used which has two meanings at the same time, which results in humor.
Ex. They took *the fork in the road.* (It could refer to where the road splits, but it could also mean a dinner fork).

**Onomatopoeia**: - the use of words to imitate the sounds they describe.
Ex. The cat *hissed.* (the word “hiss” sounds like a hiss.)

**Repetition**: the repeating of a word or phrase.
Ex. *I love* baseball, *I love* America, and *I love* apple pie.
Examples of Literary and Poetic Devices Used in
*Home of the Brave*

This cold *is like* claws on my skin. P. 3 (simile)

His *car* is red and *coughs and burps*. P. 6 (personification, maybe onomatopoeia)

We drive past buildings,
*everywhere* buildings.
*Everywhere* cars.
*Everywhere* dead trees. P. 8 (repetition)

A cow *is* god with a wet nose. P. 15 (metaphor)

She *moos*, a harsh and mournful sound. P. 16 (onomatopoeia)

The *night* Ganwar lost his hand
was the *night* I lost
my father and brother,
the *night* of men in the sky with guns,
the *night* the earth opened up *like* a black pit (simile)
and *swallowed* my old life whole. P. 21 (repetition) (personification)

In my old home back in Africa,
cattle mean life.
They are our reason
to rise with the sun,
to move with the rains,
to rest with the stars.
They are the way we know
our place in the world.

Have you lost your ears, you stubborn *brother*? he would say.
You must listen to our father and *mother*. P. 37 (internal rhyme)

Sometimes, it seems to *me*,
a hole can *be*
as real and solid
as a boulder or a *tree*. (p. 39) (end rhyme). Not the entire poem, just this section.

Carolee Dean, SLP (permission to reprint for educational purposes)
http://caroleedeanbooks.blogspot.com
Only the **snow talks**. P. 58 (personification)

In the camp we had a teacher

**Some days,** yes,
**some days,** no.
**Some days** I was too ill
with the fever to go.
**Some days** the teacher couldn’t come
Because of the men with guns. P. 63 (repetition, slant rhyme with *come* and *guns*)

Inside my school, the floor shines **like** ice. P. 67 (simile)

She says, Don’t eat the **my**stery **meat,**
if you value your life. P. 77 (internal rhyme with *eat* and *meat*, alliteration)

I stand still in the
**stream of students.** P. 77 (alliteration)

When my aunt leaves,
the apartment grows hushed
**as** the air before a storm. P. 92 (simile)

Then I close the top
and wait,
while all around me
the **machines hum and talk.** P. 94 (personification)

Hold on, he says.
We’ll see about that soon enough.
You just got here, Kek.
You need some time **to get your feet wet.**
I check my shoes.
It’s true enough that they are dry. P. 108 (pun)

Dave turns to Ganwar,
who’s sprawled on the couch
like a **dozing dog.** P. 108 (alliteration)
Hannah tips my glove over the box
and the quarters slip in with
a happy **jangle.** P. 114 (onomatopoeia)
When I take a breath of icy air,
it is like swallowing an arrow. P. 116 (simile)

I always knew what to do, he says.
Morning they’d graze, (says and graze are slant rhymes)
noon we’d lead them to a stream,
afternoon we’d head for home. (alliteration with head and home)
We always had somewhere to go.
Not like here, stuck in the apartment
or at school.  P. 125  (assonance with noon, afternoon and school, home and go, knew and do.)

Ganwar’s words lie in my lap
like huge rocks.  P. 127 (alliteration) also simile

The wind slaps my cheeks. P. 136 (personification)

When I bury my face in Gol’s old hide
I smell hay and dung and life.
She shelters me like a warm wall,
and that is enough for this day.  P. 137 (assonance)

(she shelters and warm wall are alliterations. Hay and day are internal rhymes. Hide and life are slant rhymes.

I wait for Ganwar
to spit out the word no,
but he gives a slow nod.
Dave looks at his arm clock.
Ten minutes, he says, tops.  P. 138 (slant rhyme/assonance) notice that the final consonants (d,ck,p) are similar in that they are all stops.

Ganwar follows me
through the thick crunchy snow. P. 139. (onomatopoeia) through the thick is alliteration

To carry them, unseen as wind,
is a heavy burden. P. 149 (metaphor? Maybe. To carry them is a concept, but not a thing, although a concept is a thing.)
Hunger is a wild dog
gnawing on a dry bone,
mad with impatience
but hoping still.  P. 150 (metaphor)
By the time we get there
the **sun** has already **said good night**. P. 155 (personification)

A car **whooshes** past. P. 157 (onomatopoeia)

Each book is **like** a door
waiting to be unlocked. P. 160 (simile)

Summer **is** ice cream and skate boards
and sweet grass
under your free toes. P. 189 (metaphor)

Hannah tips my glove over the box
and the quarters slip in with
a happy **jangle**. P. 114 (onomatopoeia)
Practice Test – Part One – Literary/Poetic Devices in *Home of the Brave*

Directions: The following lines are from *Home of the Brave* by Katherine Applegate. The words in bold are examples of a variety of literary devices. Circle the letter that best corresponds with the literary device being used in each excerpt.

1. This cold **is like** claws on my skin. P. 3
   - a. personification  
   - b. simile  
   - c. allusion  
   - d. hyperbole

2. His **car** is red and **coughs and burps**. P. 6
   - a. personification  
   - b. metaphor  
   - c. pun  
   - d. oxymoron

3. We drive past buildings, **everywhere** buildings. **Everywhere** cars. **Everywhere** dead trees. P. 8
   - a. simile  
   - b. metaphor  
   - c. onomatopoeia  
   - d. repetition

4. A cow **is god** with a wet nose. P. 15
   - a. metaphor  
   - b. alliteration  
   - c. hyperbole  
   - d. assonance

5. She **moos**, a harsh and mournful sound. P. 16
   - a. Metaphor  
   - b. pun  
   - c. onomatopoeia  
   - d. repetition

6. The night Ganwar lost his hand
   - was the night I lost
   - my father and brother,
   - the night of men in the sky with guns,
   - the **night** the earth opened up like a black pit
   - and **swallowed** my old life whole. P. 21
   - a. personification  
   - b. repetition  
   - c. allusion  
   - d. metaphor

7. Only the **snow** talks. P. 58
   - a. personification  
   - b. repetition  
   - c. allusion  
   - d. metaphor

8. Inside my school, the floor shines **like** ice. P. 67
   - a. personification  
   - b. simile  
   - c. metaphor  
   - d. hyperbole

9. She says, Don’t eat the **mystery** meat,
   - if you value your life.
   - a. personification  
   - b. alliteration  
   - c. metaphor  
   - d. hyperbole

10. I stand still in the
    - stream of students. P. 77
    - a. personification  
    - b. alliteration  
    - c. metaphor  
    - d. hyperbole

Carolee Dean, SLP (permission to reprint for educational purposes)  
http://caroleedeanbooks.blogspot.com
Practice Test – Part Two – Literary/Poetic Devices in *Home of the Brave*

Directions: The following lines are from *Home of the Brave* by Katherine Applegate. The words in bold are examples of a variety of literary devices. Circle the letter that best corresponds with the literary device being used in each excerpt.

11. When my aunt leaves,  
   the apartment grows hushed  
   as the air before a storm. P. 92  
   a. personification  b. alliteration  c. pun  d. simile

12. Then I close the top/ and wait, /while all around me/ the **machines hum and talk**. P. 94  
   a. personification  b. alliteration  c. pun  d. simile

13. Hold on, he says.  
   We’ll see about that soon enough.  
   You just got here, Kek.  
   You need some time **to get your feet wet**.  
   I check my shoes.  
   It’s true enough that they are dry. P. 108  
   a. personification  b. alliteration  c. pun  d. simile

14. The **wind slaps** my cheeks. P. 136  
   a. personification  b. alliteration  c. pun  d. simile

15. I wait for Ganwar  
   to spit out the word no,  
   but he gives a slow **nod**.  
   Dave looks at his arm **clock**.  
   Ten minutes, he says, **tops**.  
   a. assonance  b. pun  d. oxymoron  e. repetition

16. Hunger **is** a wild dog P. 150  
   a. personification b. alliteration c. metaphor d. simile

17. A car **whooshes** past. P. 157  
   a. onomatopoeia b. alliteration c. metaphor d. simile

18. Each book is **like** a door. P. 160  
   a. onomatopoeia b. alliteration c. metaphor d. simile

19. Summer **is** ice cream and skate boards. P. 189  
   a. onomatopoeia b. alliteration c. metaphor d. simile

20. Hannah tips my glove over the box/ and the quarters slip in with/ a happy **jangle**. P. 114  
    a. onomatopoeia b. alliteration c. metaphor d. simile

Carolee Dean, SLP (permission to reprint for educational purposes)  
http://caroleedeanbooks.blogspot.com
Name: ______________________________

**Combined Test – Literary/ Poetic Devices in *Home of the Brave***

Directions: The following lines are from *Home of the Brave* by Katherine Applegate. The words in bold are examples of a variety of literary devices. Circle the letter that best corresponds with the literary device being used in each excerpt.

1. This cold is like claws on my skin. P. 3
   a. personification    b. simile    c. allusion    d. hyperbole

2. His car is red and coughs and burps. P. 6
   a. personification    b. metaphor    c. pun    d. oxymoron

3. We drive past buildings, everywhere buildings.
   Everywhere cars.
   Everywhere dead trees. P. 8
   a. simile    b. metaphor    c. onomatopoeia    d. repetition

4. A cow is god with a wet nose. P. 15
   a. metaphor    b. alliteration    c. hyperbole    d. assonance

5. She moos, a harsh and mournful sound. P. 16
   b. Metaphor    b. pun    c. onomatopoeia    d. repetition

6. The night Ganwar lost his hand
   was the night I lost
   my father and brother,
   the night of men in the sky with guns,
   the night the earth opened up like a black pit
   and swallowed my old life whole. P. 21
   a. personification    b. repetition    c. allusion    d. metaphor

7. Only the snow talks. P. 58
   a. personification    b. repetition    c. allusion    d. metaphor

8. Inside my school, the floor shines like ice. P. 67
   a. personification    b. simile    c. metaphor    d. hyperbole

9. She says, Don’t eat the mystery meat,
   if you value your life.
   a. personification    b. alliteration    c. metaphor    d. hyperbole

10. I stand still in the stream of students. P. 77
    a. personification    b. alliteration    c. metaphor    d. hyperbole

Carolee Dean, SLP (permission to reprint for educational purposes)
http://caroleedeanbooks.blogspot.com
11. When my aunt leaves,
   the apartment grows hushed
   as the air before a storm. P. 92
   a. personification  b. alliteration  c. pun  d. simile

12. Then I close the top/ and wait, /while all around me/ the machines hum and talk. P. 94
   a. personification  b. alliteration  c. pun  d. simile

13. Hold on, he says.
   We’ll see about that soon enough.
   You just got here, Kek.
   You need some time to get your feet wet.
   I check my shoes.
   It’s true enough that they are dry. P. 108
   a. personification  b. alliteration  c. pun  d. simile

14. The wind slaps my cheeks. P. 136
   a. personification  b. alliteration  c. pun  d. simile

15. I wait for Ganwar
to spit out the word no,
but he gives a slow nod.
Dave looks at his arm clock.
Ten minutes, he says, tops.
   a. assonance  b. pun  d. oxymoron  e. repetition

16. Hunger is a wild dog  P. 150
   a. personification  b. alliteration  c. metaphor  d. simile

17. A car whooshes past. P. 157
   a. onomatopoeia  b. alliteration  c. metaphor  d. simile

18. Each book is like a door. P. 160
   a. onomatopoeia  b. alliteration  c. metaphor  d. simile

19. Summer is ice cream and skate boards.  P. 189
   a. onomatopoeia  b. alliteration  c. metaphor  d. simile

20. Hannah tips my glove over the box/ and the quarters slip in with/ a happy jangle. P. 114
   a. onomatopoeia  b. alliteration  c. metaphor  d. simile
ANSWER KEY

1. b (simile)
2. a (personification)
3. d (repetition)
4. a (metaphor)
5. c (onomatopoeia)
6. a (personification)
7. a (personification)
8. b (simile)
9. b (alliteration)
10. b (alliteration)
11. d (simile)
12. a (personification)
13. c (pun)
14. a (personification)
15. a (assonance)
16. c (metaphor)
17. a (onomatopoeia)
18. d (simile)
19. c (metaphor)
20. a (onomatopoeia)