

“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”

Directions: “A picture is worth a thousand words.” Jonathan Edwards used a thousand words to create a picture for his Puritan congregation with figurative language, vivid imagery, and persuasion. His conveyance of the Puritan sinner’s plight and the promise of merciful rewards for repentance clearly communicates Edwards’ message.

Using Edwards’ language and rhetoric as “inspiration,” choose two quotes from the text and visually represent the image that is being created. Neatness, color, completeness, and accuracy of interpretation and representation will be evaluated. **Do not chose one of the quotes from the other side of this worksheet.**

Quote:

Illustration:

Quote:

Illustration:

“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”

Understanding Figurative Language

Directions: To build powerful images, writers use figurative language, or figures of speech, which link together seemingly unrelated ideas into a single, coherent expression of meaning.

Similes make comparisons using the word *like* or *as*. Here is an example by William Wadsworth:

I wandered lonely as a cloud.

Metaphors make comparisons without using *like* or *as*. This is an example by Geoffrey Chaucer:

*And that a monk uncloistered is a mere
Fish out of water, flapping on the pier.*

Personification gives human qualities to nonhuman subjects. Here is an example in which Chaucer personifies the wind by saying that it breathes:

Exhales an air in every grove and heath

The following passages are from “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” Identify the figures of speech in each passage. Write your answers underneath each quote.

1. *“Hell’s wide mouth gaping open”*
2. *“Your wickedness makes you as it were heavy as lead*
3. *“...would have no more influence to uphold you and keep you out of Hell, than a spider’s web would have to stop a fallen rock”*
4. *“The wrath of God is like great waters that are dammed for the present*
5. *“and justice bends the arrow at your heart, and strains the bow...”*

Recognizing Persuasive Techniques

Persuasion is the strategic use of language to move an audience to action or belief. In persuasive writing, readers can be moved by appealing to their reason (logos), their emotions (pathos), and/or their sense of ethics (ethos), that is, their sense of right and wrong. The effectiveness of persuasive appeal depends on the writer’s choice of persuasive techniques and on how well these techniques are used. Edwards’s masterful appeal to his audience’s emotions gave his sermon its great impact.

Find TWO examples of each of the following rhetorical strategies in Edwards’ sermon:

1. Ethos
2. Pathos
3. Logos
4. Literary Devices