***Identify the figure/s of speech in the following quotations and explain the figure/s in terms of the themes of the poems.***

*1.*

*I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions.*

*Whatever I see I swallow immediately*

*Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike.*

**Model Answer**:

The speaker in Sylvia Plath's "Mirror" metaphorically compares herself to a mirror when she says, “I am silver and exact” (1). Then she personifies the mirror as a human being that is able to make certain judgments or one who stays on the neutral side, “no preconceptions” or “umisted by love or dislike.” The mirror here appears to carry the characteristic of neutrality which is mostly absent in humans. “…I swallow immediately” (2) is a metaphor of comparing swallowing items with reflecting items by the mirror. All of these images are connected with the theme that is the need for individuals to practice neutrality and unbiased opinions towards others.

*2.*

*Tell her that’s young,*

*And shuns to have her graces spied,*

*That hadst thou sprung*

*In deserts, where no men abide,*

*Thou must have uncommended died.*

***Model Answer:***

These lines are from the poem, " Song: Go, Lovely Rose" by Edmund Waller. This poem is an example of apostrophe. From the onset, readers notice that the speaker treats the rose or the flower as a human being capable of communicating with others by commanding the flower to “Tell her”(1). The speaker personifies the flower as human being in order to act as a messenger between his beloved and him. The intention might be that he fears rejection so he sends a flower instead. The flower is also symbolic of passion and beauty. He then metaphorically compares his beloved to a flower in the desert. In essence, the speaker says that if his sweetheart continues to isolate herself from the eyes of her beloved then she will be like a flower planted in desert. Both the sweetheart’s and flower’s beauty are transitory; their beauty will diminish or fade away with time. This is related to the theme of capturing important moments in life before they fade away.

3.

*And so Tom awoke, and we rose in the dark,*

*And got with our bags and our brushes to work.*

*Though the morning was cold, Tom was happy and warm:*

*So, if all do their duty, they need not fear harm.*

***MODEL ANSWER:***

The speaker in William Blake's "The Chimney Sweeper" here metaphorically compares the “bags” of tools the boys carry to work to the “bags” of sorrow, pain, and suffering they experience on a daily basis. Then in a paradoxical statement, the speaker notes that Tom “was happy and warm” even though “the morning was cold.” This means that the external cold weather outside does not affect the internal feelings of warmth Tom has gained from his dream of freedom the night before. This leaves the reader with a dramatic irony in the last line as if the speaker is saying if the boys are good and do their work as they should, then they shouldn’t expect to die of any diseases such as cancer. This is related to the theme of highlighting the plight of children working in difficult conditions with no institutions to save them of this fate.

*4.*

*Love’s not Time’s fool, though rosy lips and cheeks*

*Within his bending sickle’s compass come;*

*Love alters it out even to the edge of doom.*

***Model Answer:***

The speaker in William Shakespeare's "Sonnet 116" uses metonymy by referring to only parts of the body while he, in fact, means the whole body of an individual. He means to say that time takes away the physical beauty of a loved one. Then he goes on to powerfully personify time as a farmer; just as a farmer harvests his crops so does time; it harvests the beauty of an individual. Finally, the speaker says that true love of the minds should remain till judgment day. Here, he uses a biblical allusion to refer to the “Day of Judgment”. All of these figures are related to the theme of permanency of true love despite the loss of physical beauty and the passage of time.

*5.*

*He gives his harness bells a shake*

*To ask if there is some mistake.*

*The only other sound’s the sweep*

*Of easy wind and downy flake.*

***MODEL ANSWER***

The speaker in "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost personifies the “horse” as a human being who can question things “to ask”. It is almost as if the “horse” is symbolic of the subconscious mind of the speaker. The harsh sounds here are indicative of the internal conflict the speaker is experiencing at the present time. Then the next two lines reflect a tranquil and peaceful mood in which the speaker compares metaphorically the gentle and noiseless sweep of the wind of the snowflakes to a broom that also sweeps dirt and dust. In addition, the speaker metaphorically compares the softness of a bird’s feathers “downy” to the softness of the snow “flakes.”

The inclusion of these figures of speech is to illuminate the theme of the choices people make in their lives and how they can have a lasting effect on them.