Name _____ Date _____

# Simile and Metaphor in a Poem: Bus Stop in January

**Directions:** Read the poem carefully. Then answer each question.

## Bus Stop in January

At ten past seven, with the sky still dark,
snow crunches under my boots like dry cereal.
I tug my scarf up over my nose
and count the windows glowing along our street.

Five of us wait at the corner by the mailbox.
We are a row of penguins in puffy coats,
packed close together, shifting from foot to foot,
and nobody bothers to say a single word.

The bus is running late again this morning,
and waiting is a book with no last page.
I would like to be back in my warm bed,
buried under three blankets and still asleep.

Then two headlights turn onto our street,
and the bus is a yellow lantern in the dark.
Its doors fold open with a hiss,
and warm air rolls out, soft as a blanket from the dryer.

**1.** A simile compares two different things using *like* or *as*. Which line from the poem contains a simile?

A. "I would like to be back in my warm bed,"

B. "Five of us wait at the corner by the mailbox."

C. "snow crunches under my boots like dry cereal."

D. "The bus is running late again this morning,"

**2.** What does the comparison in the line "snow crunches under my boots like dry cereal" help you understand about the snow?

A. The speaker is hungry because there was no time for breakfast.

B. The speaker is eating a bowl of cereal while waiting for the bus.

C. Each step on the cold snow makes a crisp, crackling sound.

D. The snow is soft and silent under the speaker's boots.

**3.** What kind of figurative language is used in the line "We are a row of penguins in puffy coats"?

A. Hyperbole B. Simile C. Personification D. Metaphor

**4.** What does the speaker suggest by calling the kids at the bus stop "a row of penguins in puffy coats"?

A. They are all wearing black-and-white coats.

B. They huddle close together and shuffle their feet to stay warm.

C. They are on a class trip to see the penguins at the zoo.

D. They stand far apart and keep perfectly still.

**5.** A metaphor says one thing *is* another thing, without using *like* or *as*. Which two lines from the poem are metaphors? Select two.

☐ A. "and warm air rolls out, soft as a blanket from the dryer."

☐ B. "I tug my scarf up over my nose"

☐ C. "At ten past seven, with the sky still dark,"

☐ D. "and the bus is a yellow lantern in the dark."

☐ E. "and waiting is a book with no last page."

**6.** In the third stanza, the speaker says that "waiting is a book with no last page." What does this tell you about the wait?

A. The wait feels like it will never end.

B. The speaker thinks waiting is as much fun as a good story.

C. The speaker left a library book at home.

D. The speaker is reading a long book while waiting for the bus.

**7.** In the last stanza, the speaker says "the bus is a yellow lantern in the dark." What does the comparison show about the bus?

A. Its lights glow brightly in the dark morning.

B. Its headlights are broken, so it is hard to see.

C. It is small enough for a person to carry.

D. The driver hangs a lamp in the front window.

**8.** The last stanza compares the bus to a lantern and the warm air to a blanket. How does this stanza fit into the poem as a whole?

A. It describes the speaker walking to the bus stop.

B. It shows that the speaker will have to wait even longer.

C. It explains why the bus was late that morning.

D. It brings the long, cold wait to a warm, comforting end.