

**The Cremation of Sam McGee:  
REVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. Where was Sam McGee's hometown?
2. Why was Sam traveling in the frigid Arctic?
3. Sam made a last request to his traveling companion, Cap. What was the request?
4. How did Cap feel about this promise later?
5. What happened to Cap's sled dogs? How did this make things worse for Cap?
6. Why was Cap unable to cremate Sam's remains in the wilderness?
7. Where did Cap finally cremate Sam's remains?
8. Hours after placing Sam's body in the boiler, Cap get up the courage to look inside. What did he see in the boiler?

### FIGURES OF SPEECH

**Simile** is a figure of speech which compares two things by using the words "like" or "as."  
Example: The wind cut like a knife through the dark night .

**Personification** is a figure of speech which gives an object human qualities.  
Example: The wind seemed to breathe in a deep sigh.

**Hyperbole** is a figure of speech which uses exaggeration to create an image.  
Example: I tried to explain it a million times.

Below are passages from the poem, *The Cremation of Sam McGee*. For each passage, identify the figure of speech being used: metaphor, simile, personification or hyperbole.

1. "Talk of your cold! through the parka's fold it stabbed like a driven nail."  
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3. "And the dogs were fed, and the stars o'erhead were dancing heel and toe,"  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. "And he wore a smile you could see a mile,"  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. "He always seemed cold but the land of gold seemed to hold him like a spell;"  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. "The Northern Lights have seen queer sights,"  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. "It's the cursed cold, and it's got right hold till I'm chilled clean through to the bone,"  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. "In the days to come, though my lips were dumb, in my heart how I cursed that load!"  
\_\_\_\_\_

### THE CREMATION OF SAM MCGEE, Part 2

1. What is the main theme of the poem? In other words, what message is the poet trying to share with his audience?
2. Find at least three examples of good detail which help to build the setting of the poem.
3. What does the following passage mean to you, "In the days to come, though my lips were dumb, in my heart how I cursed that load!"
4. In your own words, explain the meaning of what happens at the end of the poem.
5. What happens to the dogs in the program? In your opinion, is this different than what happens in the poem? Why?
6. What details, not found in the poem, were added to the program to help us relate to Sam's character?