Dianne Ackerman – Losing the Game

Refer back to the poem *Losing the Game* in the anthology of poetry within Wikispaces

and answer the following questions below relating to imagery and figurative language.

Dianne Ackerman mainly uses similes, metaphors and personification in her poem *Losing the Game*.

For each example listed below, write one sentence explaining what sort of poetic device it is and what

she means by describing something in this way.

**The first one has been done for you.**

**1.**



**‘the falcon of defeat/ slips off its own hood/ and sails into the vapory cold December’**

* She describes the feeling of defeat with the metaphor of a falcon flying away because it is like something that has slipped away from the players, that they thought they were in control of (with its hood), but turned out not to be.

**a. How does the image of the falcon contribute to the poems theme ‘losing a game’?**

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**b. Explain why the author chose this particular image and what effect is has on the poems theme.**

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**2.**



**‘his hair/ flat as a seal pup’s fur’**

**a. What is the poetic device used? And, what is meant by describing ‘his hair’ this way?**

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**3. Find one image for the line of poetry listed below. Copy and paste your image into this file and explain why the author chose this form of imagery to use in the poem and state what effect it has on the poems theme.**

**a. ‘fatigue/ is a train whistle that never quits’**

Paste image into this box

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