Poetry – Use of Imagery

Images are word-pictures. Poets use images to express their ideas or feelings. In order to understand the meaning of a poem, it is important to understand the way imagery has been used.

<u>Different types of imagery</u>

Personification is giving human qualities to animals or objects.

Example: a smiling moon,
         the snow whispered

Metaphor and similes compare things which are different and show qualities which are similar.

A **simile** compares two things using the words **as** or **like**
Example: He was **like** a lion in the battle.
         Her hands were **as** cold **as** ice.

A **metaphor** compares X to Y and says that X **is** Y.
Example: He was a lion in the battle.
         Juliet is the sun.

Allegory is using symbols which have a hidden meaning

Example: using <u>scales</u> to represent justice

Words and phrases to describe the use of images

The poet	builds constructs creates composes paints conjures up uses	vibrant images vivid images images of wild and mysterious places unusual images

to

convey feelings of embody the sense of suggest	loss and grief power and energy force and violence excitement and joy

The imagery   captures the excitement and atmosphere of----

The Poet   beautifully captures images of---
                uses imagery in a fresh and imaginative

Some useful Verbs

What does the poet do?

The Poet He She	**attempts** to create the feeling of **compares** **conveys** feelings of **describes** **explains** that **observes** that **suggests** that **wonders** how

The mood/atmosphere of the poem is	**conveyed** through … **created** by … **evoked** by the words … **portrayed** in … **reflected** in the words …		
The image of a ….	**describes** **conveys** **illustrates** **portrays** **reflects** **represents** **symbolises**		the idea of … a belief in … a feeling of …
Using the poetic device of ….	**makes** the reader feel … **produces** an effect of … **paints** a picture of … **creates** an image of …		