

Throughout the Ancient Egyptian Secular poems we read in class, the authors use a variety of figurative language and imagery to bring across points of importance or value to the reader. This is done to convey the author's feelings during their time of writing by comparing things they value to objects of importance during the timeframe. The metaphors used give an easy way for a reader to understand the feelings of the author, while also giving readers in other time periods, such as myself, the opportunity to peek behind the curtain and see the importance of objects or ideas during ancient Egyptian history.

In the poem "The Sister Without Peer," the author uses metaphors to give a person a feeling of importance that is easy for a reader to grasp. For example, the author describes this person as having "Hair true lapis lazuli;/Arms surpassing gold," to help represent the value the author sees in this woman. During ancient Egyptian times, lapis lazuli and gold were very difficult to acquire and considered beautiful, making them valued very highly. By describing this woman as having arms surpassing gold and hair that is true lapis lazuli, the author is not only describing the color of the woman's hair, as black hair in the sun shines a blueish color like the color of lapis lazuli, but the author is also showing the value they hold this woman to. Because gold and lapis are so valuable, comparing this woman's value to these gems shows how much the author values this woman and how attracted they are to her. The author shifts this point further by describing his feelings when they see her outside as being "Like that the Sun." In the region Egypt is in, there is very little natural cover from sunlight resulting in the sun being very bright and present in the everyday lives of Egyptians. As well as being incredibly bright though, the Egyptians believe their most powerful god, Ra, to be the god of the sun, placing even further importance on this statement. By describing her presence in this way, the author is comparing her to what might've been the thing most present within Egyptian culture as well as the most powerful figure Egyptians believed in. The author's use of these metaphors drives home just how important they find this woman to be, while also giving insight to the values held at utmost importance in Egyptian life.

This similar style of writing is also used in the poem "Sickness Invaded Me." Throughout this poem, the author uses a similar style of metaphor, comparing a woman to important objects or ideas in Egyptian History to represent their feelings toward this woman. The author conveys how important her

words are to them by stating “When the physicians come to me,/My heart rejects their remedies;. . ./To tell me ‘She is here’ would revive me!” After describing their sickness and how no doctor-prepared remedies seemed to help, the author states that the woman’s words would be enough to cure them. This shows the importance of doctor’s remedies during this time as he wouldn’t compare someone he finds so important to them if they didn’t carry importance to the average person. Stating that this woman’s words had more of a healing property than a doctor’s remedy shows that the author values this woman and her presence over medicine to heal himself, showing how important they find her. In addition to this, the author explicitly says “My sister is better than all prescriptions,/She does more for me than all medicines;/Her coming to me is my amulet,” to further the point made above. The author values her above all things that could heal their sickness and bring them back to health because of their deep feelings toward her. They don’t feel like they need to be healed when she is present in their life, valuing her presence over the cures to their own sicknesses.

Within the Ancient Egyptian Secular Poetry we read in class, the authors use metaphorical writing to describe imagery that is important and prevalent within the culture during this time. They do this by comparing people they find important to objects that the general population places vast importance on, to convey their feelings toward these people. By showing their feelings in this way, they not only get their points across on how they feel toward certain people, but they also give a peek behind the curtain to readers to find what was important to Egyptians during this time period. They allow us to see what certain ideas or objects represent during the time period they lived in, furthering our knowledge while also giving simple comparisons that make their writing easy to understand. Overall, these authors manage to write timeless pieces by using descriptive writing to give readers from any time an easy understanding of things of importance during their time period, but also their feelings as they wrote their poems.