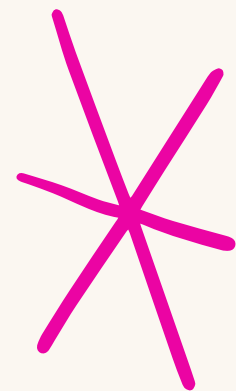




# POETRY ANALYSIS: STRUCTURE, SOUND & FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE - USING "SLAM, DUNK, & HOOK"



# Understanding Structural Elements in Poetry

Structural elements create the framework of a poem

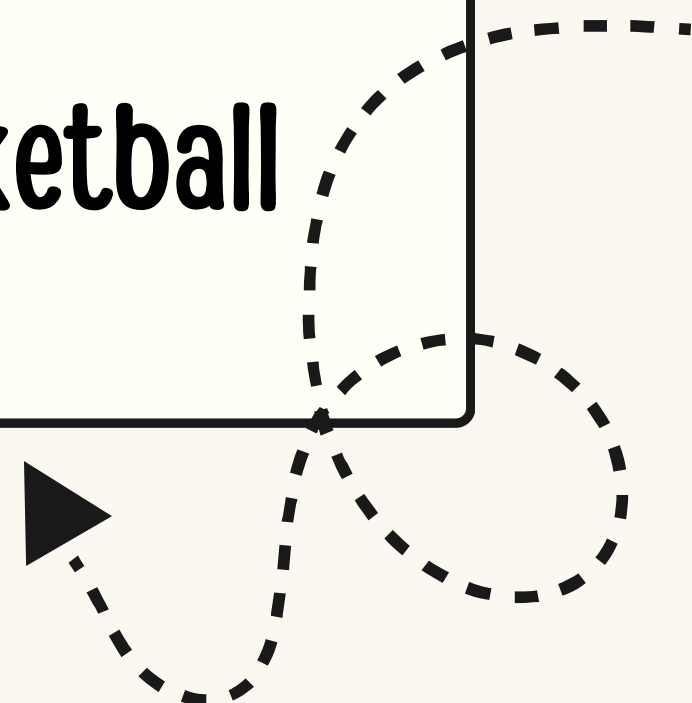
Key elements we will explore:

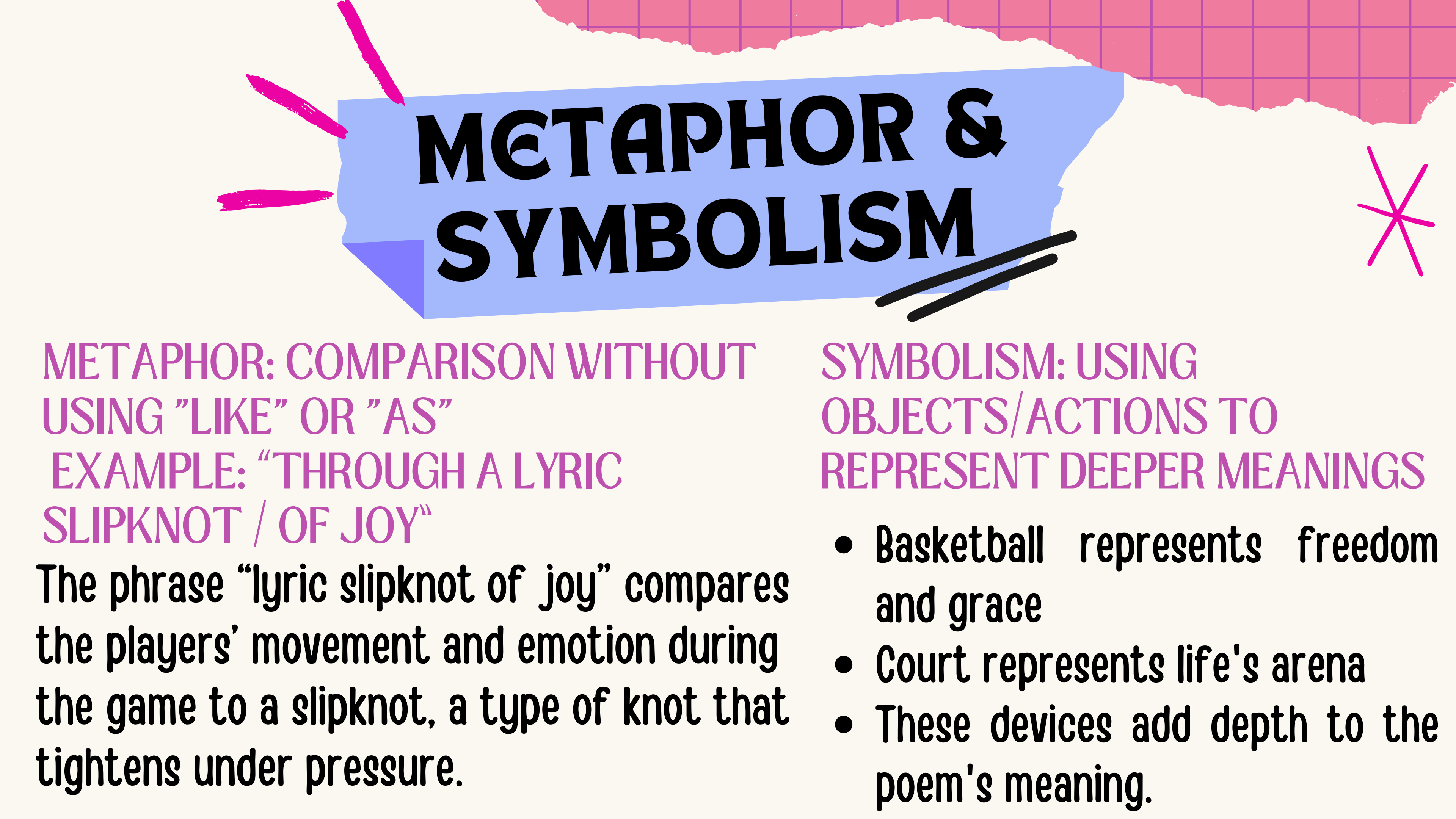
- Repetition: repeated words or phrases for emphasis
- Meter: rhythmic pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables
- In "Slam, Dunk, & Hook," notice the repetition of basketball terms and movement-related words




- Alliteration: repetition of initial consonant sounds  
Example from poem: "storybook sea monsters"

- Onomatopoeia: words that imitate sounds  
Example from poem: "Swish of strings"
- These elements create rhythm and reinforce the basketball theme





# METAPHOR & SYMBOLISM



**METAPHOR: COMPARISON WITHOUT USING "LIKE" OR "AS"**

**EXAMPLE: "THROUGH A LYRIC SLIPKNOT / OF JOY"**

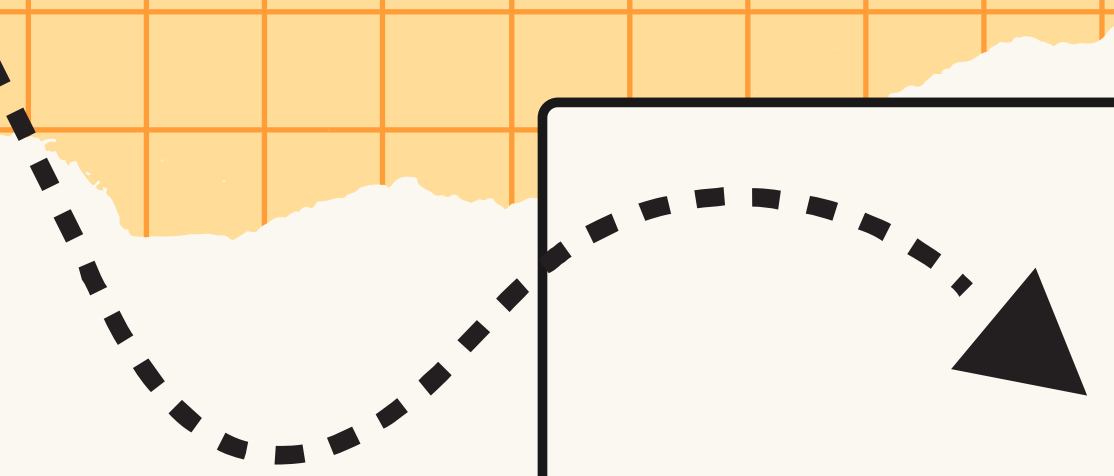

The phrase "lyric slipknot of joy" compares the players' movement and emotion during the game to a slipknot, a type of knot that tightens under pressure.

**SYMBOLISM: USING OBJECTS/ACTIONS TO REPRESENT DEEPER MEANINGS**

- Basketball represents freedom and grace
- Court represents life's arena
- These devices add depth to the poem's meaning.



# **SIMILE & PERSONIFICATION**

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- **SIMILE:** COMPARISON USING "LIKE" OR "AS"  
EXAMPLE: "& GLIDE LIKE A SPARROW HAWK"
  - **PERSONIFICATION:** GIVING HUMAN QUALITIES TO NON-HUMAN THINGS  
EXAMPLE FROM POEM: "UP & DUNK BALLS THAT EXPLODED"
  - **THESE ELEMENTS HELP READERS VISUALIZE AND CONNECT WITH THE IMAGERY**

# Hyperbole & Allusion

- Hyperbole: extreme exaggeration

Example: "He played nonstop all day, so hard"

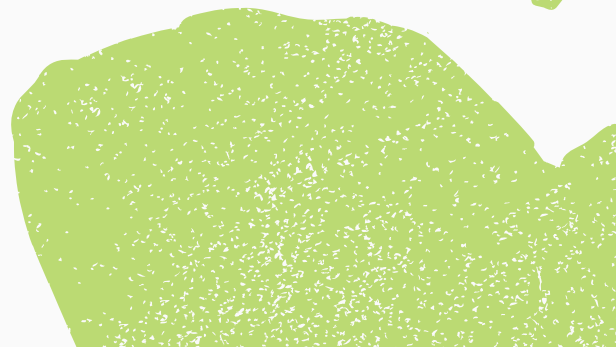
- Allusion: reference to other works, events, or figures
- References to jazz musicians
- Basketball culture of the time
- These devices add cultural context and dramatic effect









# Breaking Down "Slam, Dunk, & Hook"

- **Theme: Basketball as art and life**
  - **Structure: Free verse with rhythmic elements**
  - **Imagery: Combines sports and music**
  - **Shows how poetry can elevate everyday experiences into art**
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# MAKING CONNECTIONS – THINK ABOUT THE FOLLOWING

- How does the author use basketball terms to create deeper meaning?
  - What role does rhythm play in the poem?
  - How do the figurative language elements work together?
  - What makes this poem effective?
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# UNDERSTANDING CONTEXT CLUES & CONNOTATION THROUGH POETRY

# WHAT ARE CONNOTATIVE AND DENOTATIVE MEANINGS?

**Denotative meaning:** The literal or dictionary definition

**Connotative meaning:** The suggested or associated meaning

Example: "Home"

- **Denotative:** A place where one lives
- **Connotative:** Warmth, comfort, family, safety



# INTRODUCTION TO "SLAM, DUNK & HOOK"

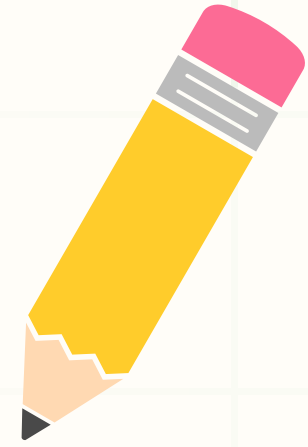
- Poem by Yusef Komunyakaa
- Basketball-themed poetry
- Published in 1991
- Combines sports imagery with deeper meanings
- Perfect for exploring connotative meanings







# CONTEXT CLUES IN POETRY



## Types of context clues:

- Synonyms
- Antonyms
- Examples
- Definitions
- Surrounding words
- How they help us understand unfamiliar words
- Finding meaning through basketball terminology

# ANALYZING THE TITLE:



## "SLAM, DUNK & HOOK"



### **Denotative meanings:**

- Slam: To shut forcefully
- Dunk: To submerge
- Hook: A curved piece of metal

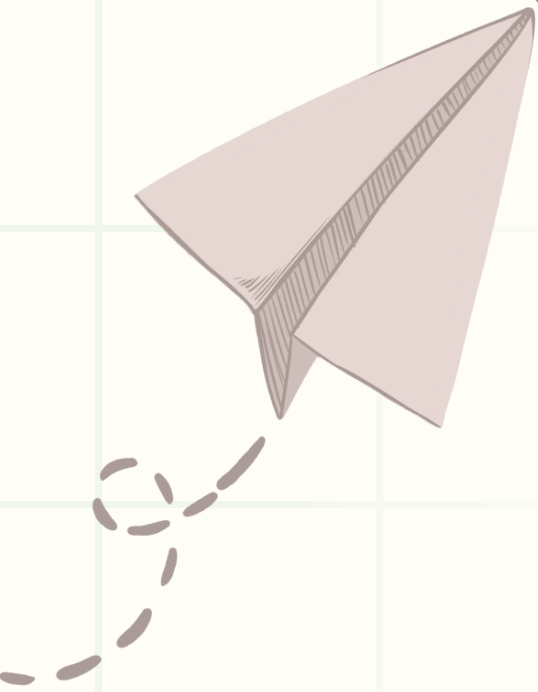
### **Connotative meanings in basketball:**

- Slam: Power, dominance
- Dunk: Victory, achievement
- Hook: Skill, precision

# FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN THE POEM

## Examples from the text:

- "Fast breaks, like Mercury"
- "Muscles were a bright motor"
- How metaphors create deeper meaning
- Connection to basketball and life





# WORD RELATIONSHIPS

Basketball terminology network:

Court → game → players → score

- Related words and associations
- How words build upon each other
- Creating mental connections

# BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

## ✦ APPLICATION ✦

- Understanding basketball basics
- Cultural context of the game
- How sports metaphors work
- Connecting to personal experience
- Using prior knowledge to interpret meaning