

Hyperbole in Poetry

A **hyperbole** (hy-PER-buh-lee) is an exaggeration so dramatic that it is obviously not true. It is used as a figure of speech in writing to make a point or create a vivid image.

Example: I'm so tired I could sleep for a year!

Read the poem and answer the questions that follow.

Lil' Peggy Sue, oh Lil' Peggy Sue,
She always wanted something new.
She fell on her knees, crying, "boo hoo!"
Demanding new toys since she was just two.
She screamed at her parents for a kazoo,
a ball, a bike, a doll dressed in blue,
a train, a hat, a pet kangaroo.
Finally her parents said, "It's through!
No more toys for you, Peggy Sue."
She wailed and screamed for a week or two,
saying, "Oh please, I need just a few,
I'll die without a new kangaroo."
Her parents didn't know what to do,
so they took Sue on holiday to Timbuktu.



1. Underline an example of hyperbole in the poem.
2. What is the author or speaker *literally* saying?

Peggy Sue is saying she'll die if she doesn't get what she wants.

3. What does the author or speaker actually mean?

She means she'll be really upset.