

More 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!

Sometimes authors use **superlatives** when they write hyperboles. A superlative is an adjective that expresses the highest degree of something. Superlatives often end with the suffix -est.

Example: Joe is the tallest kid in the world!

Read the poem and answer the questions that follow.

It was the longest day, with the hottest sun
When Old Man Pete went out to run.
He ran so fast, he ran so long
He didn't stop 'til the break of dawn.

When Pete finally sat down to rest,
He found that he'd reached Budapest.
A thousand miles from home, and yet
He jumped right up, ran to Tibet.

Pete ran up the steepest hills, then
turned around and ran up again.
He ran along the China wall
He didn't slow, he didn't fall.

Old Man Pete ran 'round the globe
wearing nothing but his bathroom robe.
When he was done, said with a sigh,
"Never did catch that dog of mine."

1. Underline an example of hyperbole in the poem.

2. What is the author or speaker literally saying?

3. What does the author or speaker actually mean?

4. Circle three superlatives.

5. How did the author use superlatives to create hyperbole?

