

from the Qur'an

Literary Analysis: Antithesis

Antithesis is a figure of speech characterized by strongly contrasting words, phrases, sentences, or ideas. An example of antithesis is *by the light of day and by the dark of night*. A writer or speaker uses this technique of balancing one element against another to create emphasis. In the above example, the juxtaposition of *light of day* with *dark of night* emphasizes the speaker's reference to all times—day and night.

A. DIRECTIONS: In each passage, circle the two opposing elements (words, phrases, sentences). Then, explain how the antithesis emphasizes the writer's point.

1. "Guide us to the straight path, / The path of those whom You have favoured, / Not of those who have incurred Your wrath, / Nor of those who have gone astray."

2. "For him that gives in charity and guards himself against evil and believes in goodness, We shall smooth the path of salvation; but for him that neither gives nor takes, and disbelieves in goodness, We shall smooth the path of affliction."

3. "Ours is the life to come, Ours the life of this world."

4. "With every hardship there is ease."

B. DIRECTIONS: Expand the following verse by adding lines of your own that employ antithesis.

Did He not find you an orphan and give you shelter?
Did He not find you in error and guide you?
Did He not find you poor and enrich you?

Did He not _____

Did He not _____

Did He not _____

Did He not _____