

Name: _____ Block: _____

Date: _____

Unit 1: Narrative Elements

“A Few Words” by Mary Oliver
adapted from Holt McDougal Literature: Grade 9

Introduction: An **author’s style** is depends on many elements, including the writer’s choice of words, tone, and sentence structure. Mary Oliver is an author who is well-known for her poetry. In what way might “A Few Words” be described as poetic?

Directions: Complete the following chart to help you analyze Oliver’s style; then, explain whether you think her essay is more like poetry or prose.

Poetic Element	Examples from the Text
<i>Alliteration:</i> repetition of consonant sounds at the beginnings of words Example: <u>S</u> ally <u>s</u> ells <u>s</u> eashells by the <u>s</u> eashore.	
<i>Metaphor:</i> a direct comparison between two unlike things Example: That dog is a monster!	
<i>Imagery:</i> language appealing to the five senses	
<i>Repetition:</i> a sound, word, or phrase that is repeated for emphasis or unity	

In your opinion, is Oliver’s essay more like poetry or prose? Cite evidence from your completed chart to support your response. **NOTE: This is not a short-constructed response; however, the evidence you select should still be explained, albeit briefly, to demonstrate your understanding of this question.** If you need more space, please use a separate sheet of paper and attach it to this one.
