

general implications:

- transient (not tangible); fleeting
- meant for others to hear/respond to → all about interaction
- must be used with obj. (eg. "sound the alarm") → useless in isolation

"Sestina: Like" Research Paper Definition Outline

Thesis starter: "Sestina: Like" sounds the reality that similarity is not sameness.

sound (all definitions from Oxford English Dictionary)

v. I v.i. 1b spec. Of a trumpet or other instrument: give a call or summons to arms, battle, etc; make a signal.

"no button" → desire for concrete/quantifiable (i.e. a "signal") ↓  
 "money-like" ← "Token"  
 ↓  
 only quantifiable has value (leaves no room for feelings)  
 ↳ but all virtual-D "like"  
 "like this page" in quotes  
 ↳ activism reliant on comp./obj., which ultimately "does diddly" → fig., v. literally  
 "stamp out" → not all actions can be made symbolic and still have impact

"So OVER him, I overhear"  
 conversations/live always public → always involving/entertaining others → "OVER" but actually in the midst of  
 ↳ later "our chat"  
 "click 'like' if you're against extinction)" → parenthesis = not actually a priority  
 both cause & ad  
 ↳ ad and activism conflated (\$ linked to morals) → but still same separation/purity due to parenthesis  
 • signal with "gesticulations" but body language cannot replace verbal language

• p.o.v. "my" friend & "we"  
 v. "I overhear" places poet both in and out of society  
 ↳ "we're alike" → but no pronouns in last line

v. II v.t. 9 Of words: signify, mean; imply  
 • use of Sestina but w/ all lines slightly altered both follows & deviates from fixed form → almost identical but completely transforms understanding  
 • Quotes around "friends" signifies degraded & redefined  
 • hyphens imply concepts combine but "Semi-demi-goddess" still diff./debased → <sup>people now only imply, v. assert identity</sup>  
 • juxtaposition of "unlikely Like" shows simultaneous similarities and differences

ultimate difference between simile and metaphor → simile supr.  
 • "you know?" → language = implied meaning ↳ empathy through (lack of) language/conv.  
 • "sans subtitles" means "w/o" → Stallings as translator ↳ but still "foreign" and comparison still a simile → poet's job is to "imply" but not translate, meaning  
 • "pronunciation of", say, "lichen" = belief that sound replaces meaning ↳ but "pronounce" & "say" could be ~~synonyms~~ synonyms, but aren't in the way they're used (no two words, or even the same word, is truly the same)

v. 11 Taunt. Cf. sound on below.  
 • Sestina form traditionally used for mockery  
 • ironic "twiddling" of "unopposing thumbs-up" pun on the opposable thumbs that separate man from animal and machine (but apparently not by much)  
 • enjambment of "like/Wise" → means similarly but separated "like" from "wise" creating distance

"Dumb phones" and societal judgement of those who use them, next to elevated diction that "stupid" (but actually conscientious) people use → ironically leaves the reader "sans subtitle" but irony x 2 has exactly communicated her intended meaning  
 • Her feelings towards "those poets" both mocks them and includes her self "vs to admit"  
 ↳ ironic allusion to English as she's spoke  
 ↳ literally as parenthesis implied to both use and not use it literally  
 • contradiction of "real" speech & "like"  
 • eventually includes self in joke through pov

v. 5 v.t. Understand; fathom  
 • entire poem is an attempt to understand how a word that sounds the same can change meaning (and when/what that meaning is)  
 • similes themselves exist to help create understanding by comparing two unlike things and making them "like" → but not metaphor  
 • Personification of Like to increase understanding through human turns ↳ but in turn makes human behavior incomprehensible and mechanized (desire to "quantify")  
 → "So"s and colon's attempt to explain human behavior → speech = underst.  
 - "quotative" of "He's like" and "I'm all like" dramatize and ↑ understanding, but through tone, reflect on and the unquantifiable → "you know"  
 ↳ greatest understanding comes from meaningless circular ~~and~~ language  
 • Take "like" out of chat but can then only be explained by putting like back in (simile)  
 • "Like is like" now defines self → D? s became rhetorical (even in direct address)  
 • "But" ... "we're alike" ↳ both similar & diff.  
 • lang. connects & isolates.

## Sestina: Like

A. E. Stallings

*With a nod to Jonah Winter*

Now we're all "friends," there is no love but Like,  
A semi-demi goddess, something like  
A reality-TV star look-alike,  
Named Simile or Me Two. So we like  
In order to be liked. It isn't like  
There's Love or Hate now. Even plain "dislike"

Is frowned on: there's no button for it. Like  
Is something you can quantify: each "like"  
You gather's almost something money-like,  
Token of virtual support. "Please like  
This page to stamp out hunger." And you'd like  
To end hunger and climate change alike,

But it's unlikely Like does diddly. Like  
Just twiddles its unopposing thumbs-ups, like-  
Wise props up scarecrow silences. "I'm like,  
So OVER him," I overhear. "But, like,  
He doesn't get it. Like, you know? He's like  
It's all OK. Like I don't even LIKE

Him anymore. Whatever. I'm all like ..."  
Take "like" out of our chat, we'd all alike  
Flounder, agape, gesticulating like  
A foreign film sans subtitles, fall like  
Dumb phones to mooted desuetude. Unlike  
With other crutches, um, when we use "like,"

We're not just buying time on credit: Like  
Displaces other words; crowds, cuckoo-like,  
Endangered hatchlings from the nest. (Click "like"  
If you're against extinction!) Like is like  
Invasive zebra mussels, or it's like  
Those nutria-things, or kudzu, or belike

Redundant fast food franchises, each like  
(More like) the next. Those poets who dislike  
Inversions, archaisms, who just like  
Plain English as she's spoke — why isn't "like"  
Their (literally) every other word? I'd like  
Us just to admit that's what real speech is like.

But as you like, my friend. Yes, we're alike,  
How we pronounce, say, lichen, and dislike  
Cancer and war. So like this page. Click Like.

▷ are "like"

"To say that things are identical is to say that they are the same. "Identity" and "sameness" mean the same; their meanings are identical. However, they have more than one meaning. A distinction is customarily drawn between qualitative and numerical identity or sameness. Things with qualitative identity share properties, so things can be more or less qualitatively identical. Numerical identity requires absolute, or total, qualitative identity, and can only hold between a thing and itself. Its name implies the controversial view that it is the only identity relation in accordance with which we can properly count (or number) things: x and y are to be properly counted as one just in case they are numerically identical (Geach 1973)."

↓  
"quantify"

can identity exist w/o exact "sameness"