

## George Foreman in Zaire by Jack B. Bedell

### Introduction:

*"Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee. His hands can't hit what his eyes can't see. Now you see me, now you don't. George thinks he will, but I know he won't."*

- Muhammad Ali, on his upcoming fight with George Foreman

**Directions:** Follow the steps provided below:

1. Read "[George Foreman in Zaire](#)" by Jack B. Bedell, paying close attention to the literary elements and techniques Bedell uses to develop a complex portrayal of George Foreman in this moment.
2. Read through the text one more time, paying particular attention to the two halves/stanzas of the piece. Think of the parallels and/or differences between the two parts.
3. Go back through the text and find two elements or pieces of text (one from each stanza) that "functionally pair" (match, contrast, compound, etc.) with one another to create/enhance meaning or effect. An element can be specific lines or words from the text, or broader descriptive terms like tone, atmosphere, etc. When you have your paired elements, paste them in the spaces provided for you (the first and third column).
4. Choose a specific **VERB** that describes the functional or rhetorical connection between the elements. Then write that verb in the second column of the table (between the first and third column).
5. In the column to the right, discuss *how* those two elements work with one another to contribute to the "complex portrayal of George Foreman" in this moment. You should consider not only the text itself, but also the larger context behind the fight and its significance. **Your response should consist of no less than 100 words.**
6. In the final row of the table, discuss how those pairings (the juxtapositions, the contrasts, the parallels, callbacks, etc.) contribute to the overall complex portrayal of Foreman in this moment. **Your response should consist of no less than 100 words.**

An example has been provided below:

Element From Stanza 1	Verb Describing the Connection Between Element From Stanza 1 & 2	Element From Stanza 2	Analysis <i>*Your response should consist of no less than 100 words.</i>
<p>"Achilles never showed up to a fight / to find some other half-god like Hercules geared up and fighting for the other side."</p>	<p>juxtaposes</p>	<p>"He had felt the worth of another man / pressed right up against his body / and had found the weight impossible to bear."</p>	<p>The first line mythologizes George Foreman by comparing him to Achilles, a hero unmatched in combat. The allusion elevates Foreman's status as a legendary fighter but also foreshadows his vulnerability. The line from the second stanza <b>juxtaposes</b> the allusion in the first one by humanizing Foreman, shifting from myth to reality. The physicality of "pressed right up against his body" emphasizes the intimacy of combat, where strength is measured not in abstraction but in tangible force, and in this case, with an equal foe. Also, the "impossible to bear" weight symbolizes both physical exhaustion and the emotional toll of realizing one's limitations, creating a deeply empathetic (and human) portrayal of Foreman</p>

			in his defeat, a depiction completely contrasting to that of the mythological hero in the first.
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Discussion of Poem as a Whole</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>*Your response should consist of no less than 100 words.</i></p>			