Examples of Poetry Elements Analysis (Poetry Project step 5) using Anne Bradstreet’s [“Here Follow Some Verses upon the Burning of Our House”](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43707/verses-upon-the-burning-of-our-house-july-10th-1666)

1. Allusion: “I blest His name that gave and took” Bradstreet alludes to the story of Job in the Bible. Like Bradstreet, Job endured a great trial, losing everything he had; yet, he remained faithful to God through this trial. Similarly, Bradstreet wishes to remain faithful during her time of suffering.
2. Extended metaphor: “Thou hast a house on high erect / Framed by that mighty Architect, / With glory richly furnished, / Stands permanent though this be fled. / It‘s purchased and paid for too / By Him who hath enough to do. / A price so vast as is unknown, / Yet by His gift is made thine own;” Bradstreet introduces the metaphor comparing God to an architect who builds a heavenly home to contrast the loss of her earthly home. She develops the metaphor across several lines to show how the heavenly home is better than the earthly one—permanent, beautifully furnished, paid for though very expensive (having cost Christ His life).
3. Personification: “My sorrowing eyes” Bradstreet describes her eyes as feeling sorrow because they are beholding a terrible sight—the burned ruins of her house and belongings. This personification helps the reader to feel the anguish she feels at the sight more than if she just said, I was full of sorrow because the reader can feel her anguish and almost the tears that would well in her eyes at the sight.
4. Synecdoche: “My sorrowing eyes” Bradstreet uses her eyes to represent her whole being to emphasize that it is a visual image that is devastating to her as opposed to just hearing news.
5. Symbol: “No Candle e’re shall shine in thee.” The candle is a literal candle, yet could also be seen as a symbol of light or hope in a dark time.
6. Allusion: “All’s vanity.” Bradstreet alludes to Ecclesiastes 1:2—“Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.” This verse means that our earthly possessions are temporary and meaningless, yet we try to cling to them—a vain (or pointless) pursuit. The speaker comes to the same conclusion—that the things of this world are only temporary and will pass away. Only spiritual things last eternally.
7. Alliteration: “I wakened was with thundering noise” The repetition of the “w” wound in this line creates a soft tone that contrasts with the “thundering noise”; this parallels the contrast between peaceful sleep and the terrible fire that disturbs that sleep.
8. Symbol: “That fearful sound of “fire” and “fire,” The fire in these lines is the literal fire that destroyed Bradstreet’s house; however, it could also be a symbol of the fires of hell or God’s judgment that awaits those who do not trust Him.

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Note, you would continue until you had 15 total examples. Again, you may use any of the poems you annotated on step 2 for your examples. You might find 1 example in a poem; you might find several!

Remember – analyze the effect; don’t just summarize the lines. Don’t just define the term. For example, on #3 above, saying, “This is personification because eyes can’t feel sorrow” is not analysis; this merely states the definition of personification—giving human characteristics to something that is not human.