



Sound and Sense

Directions: Read the short literary excerpts and notes below. Each contains a deliberate use of **homophones** that adds humor, irony, or deeper meaning. Analyze how the author's word choice affects tone, theme, or interpretation. Then, answer the questions that follow each excerpt.

Excerpt 1: The poet wrote, "Eye sea the truth clearly now."

1. What two homophones are used for effect?
2. How does replacing the usual words with these homophones change the tone or suggest a deeper meaning?
3. What could this line reveal about the poet's view of perception or insight?

Excerpt 2: In a satirical essay, a politician declares, "We must make sure our *principles* never change, even if our *principals* do."

1. What is ironic about this statement?
2. Explain how the play on homophones contributes to the humor or criticism in the line.

Excerpt 3: In a fantasy novel, a knight says to his squire, "You must *kneel* to know what it means to *feel* honor."

1. How do the similar sounds of *kneel* and *feel* emphasize the theme of humility and emotion?
2. What literary effect does the author achieve through this pairing of sound and meaning?

Excerpt 4: A playwright includes the line, "The heir felt the weight of his new *air* of power."

1. How does the homophone use of *heir* and *air* create a double meaning?
2. What commentary might the author be making about privilege or leadership through this wordplay?