Figurative Language Poem 9
Operating Room
By John Reed

Sunlight floods the shiny many-windowed place,
Coldly glinting on flawless steel under glass,
And blaring imperially on the spattered gules1
Where kneeling men grunt as they swab the floor.

Startled eyes of nurses swish by noiselessly,
Orderlies2 with cropped heads swagger like murderers;
And three surgeons, robed and masked mysteriously,
Lounge gossiping of guts, and wish it were lunch-time.

Beyond the porcelain door, screaming mounts crescendo3—
Case 4001 coming out of the ether,
Born again half a man, to spend his life in bed.

Review Questions
Directions: Respond to these questions to the best of your ability. Answer the questions completely. If you need more space, use the back or a separate sheet.

1. Identify one example of simile: explain which two things are being compared.

2. Identify one example of metaphor: explain which two things are being compared.

3. Case 4001 has likely come to what realization? Support your answer with textual evidence.

4. Identify one example of hyperbole: explain what is being exaggerated.

5. What is the subject of this poem? What is this poem about? Explain your response.

6. What is the tone of this poem? How does the speaker treat the subject of the poem? Refer to text.

7. What is the mood of this poem? How does this poem make you feel? Refer to text in your response.

8. What does this line “Lounge gossiping of guts, and wish it were lunch-time” reveal about the surgeons? Explain your answer.

1. The color red
2. An hospital attendant responsible for the nonmedical care of patients, order, and cleanliness
3. A gradual increase in loudness or intensity