POETRY ANALYSIS AND COMPARISON

Theme-You are powerful and can rise above past mistakes to become what you want to be
GIRL ON FIRE

She's just a girl, and she's on fire
She's hotter than a fantasy, longer like a highway
She's living in a world, and it's on fire Feeling the catastrophe, but she knows she can fly away

Oh, she got both feet on the ground And she's burning it down Oh, she got her head in the clouds And she's not backing down
Everybody stands, as she goes by
Cause they can see the flame that's in her eyes
Watch her when she's lighting up the night
Nobody knows that she's a lonely girl
And it's a lonely world
But she gon' let it burn, baby, burn, baby

Symbolism: the flame represents her inner strength and the power that she holds.

Alliteration: The repetition of the letter B.
Firework

Do you ever feel like a plastic bag
Drifting through the wind, wanting to start again?
Do you ever feel, feel so paper thin
Like a house of cards, one blow from caving in?

Do you ever feel already buried deep?
Six feet under screams, but no one seems to hear a thing
Do you know that there's still a chance for you
'Cause there's a spark in you?

Simile-comparing you to a plastic bag-
being used and going any direction
That the wind can take you

Simile-comparing you to
a house of cards-weak and
at the mercy of others?

Metaphor-your feelings to
being buried alive. Do you feel
as if nobody understands how
trapped you feel?

Symbolism-spark represents
the potential to ignite and
become powerful
Phenomenal Woman

MAYA ANGELOU

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.

I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size

But when I start to tell them,

They think I'm telling lies.

I say, It's in the reach of my arms

The span of my hips,

The stride of my step,

The curl of my lips.

I'm a woman Phenomenally.

Phenomenal woman, That's me.

She is not a Conventional Beauty but her On the outside But how she carries herself and feels about herself makes her attractive

She uses repetition of the words “phenomenal” and “woman” to stress her power
I walk into a room  Just as cool as you please,  And to a man,  The fellows stand or  Fall down on their knees.

Then they swarm around me,  A hive of honey bees.

I say,  It's the fire in my eyes,

And the flash of my teeth,

The swing in my waist,

And the joy in my feet.

I'm a woman  Phenomenally.

Phenomenal woman,  That's me.

**Hyperbole** - of men falling on their knees. Angelou uses this to illustrate the effect Her power has over others without trying.

**Metaphor** - comparing the adoring men to a hive of honey bees. They swarm around her and are attracted to her

**Fire** is used as a symbol to show How much drive and power she has and that is what people are attracted to
COMPARISON

In the song, *Girl on Fire*, Keys also uses the metaphor of fire to demonstrate the power of burning the past to ashes and moving on.

In the poem, *Phenomenal Woman*, Angelou essentially gives the same message and uses metaphor of people swarming around her like bees because of her potential and power.

In the song, *Firework*, Perry, uses metaphor by comparing the person to a firework meaning that he/she is not powerless but has the potential to be powerful.

Theme - You are powerful and can rise above past mistakes to become who you want to be.
In the song, *Girl on Fire*, Keys uses the paradox of images contrasting the idea of keeping your feet on the ground while having your head in the clouds. By using the paradox, Keys conveys the message that it is okay to be both practical and a dreamer at the same time. This lends support to Keys’ theme of fire being powerful and destructive.

In the song, *Firework*, Perry uses the symbol of fire differently than Keys. In *Firework*, Perry evokes the spark and blaze of a firework as more potential than as a destructive force. Her tone is more supportive and encouraging than Key’s in your face kind of power.

In the poem, *Phenomenal Woman*, Angelou doesn’t rely only on the reference of fire to show her power. Unlike Keys and Perry, Angelou relies more on imagery and movement to illustrate her power. In addition, Angelou’s purpose is to tell how she feels powerful not in an encouraging tone like Perry or a destructive tone like Keys.

**CONTRAST**

**Figurative language**