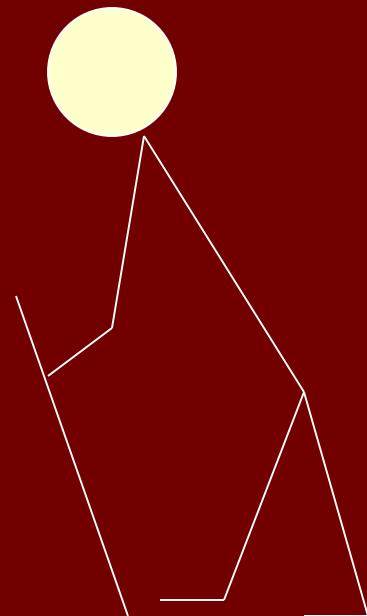
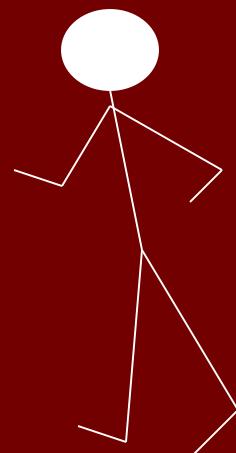
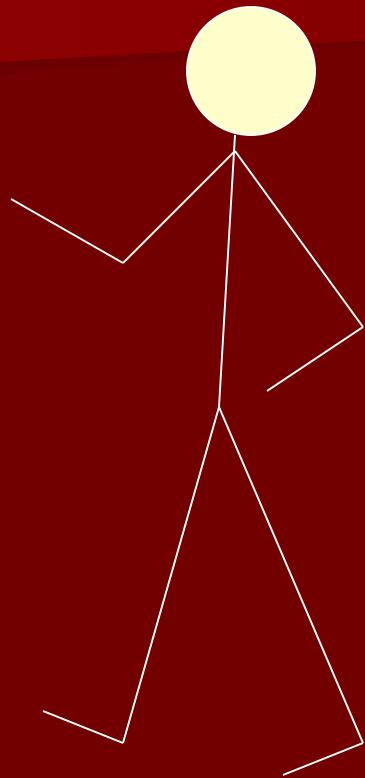


Follower

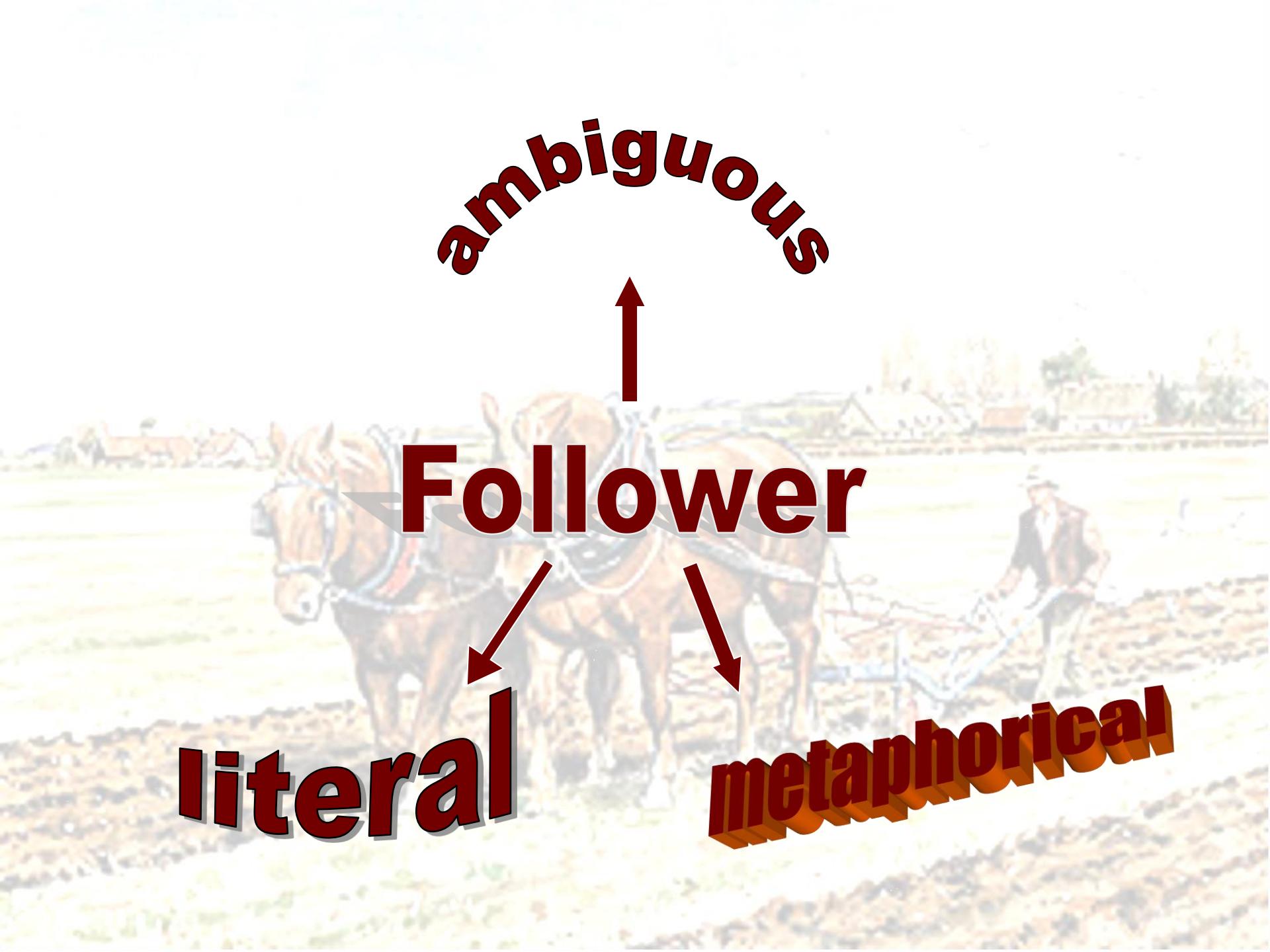
by

Seamus Heaney





Follower

A painting of a horse-drawn carriage in a field. A man is driving the carriage. In the background, there are trees and buildings.

Follower

ambiguous

literal

metaphorical

A diagram illustrating the concept of a "Follower". The word "Follower" is positioned in the center. Above it, the word "ambiguous" is written in a curved, red, 3D-style font. Below "Follower", three arrows point downwards to the words "literal", "metaphorical", and "ambiguous" respectively, also in a red, 3D-style font.

Farming – simply imitating father's actions



later learns how skilled the work is

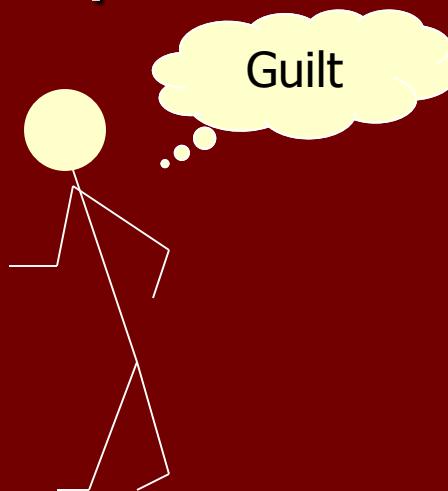


admiration



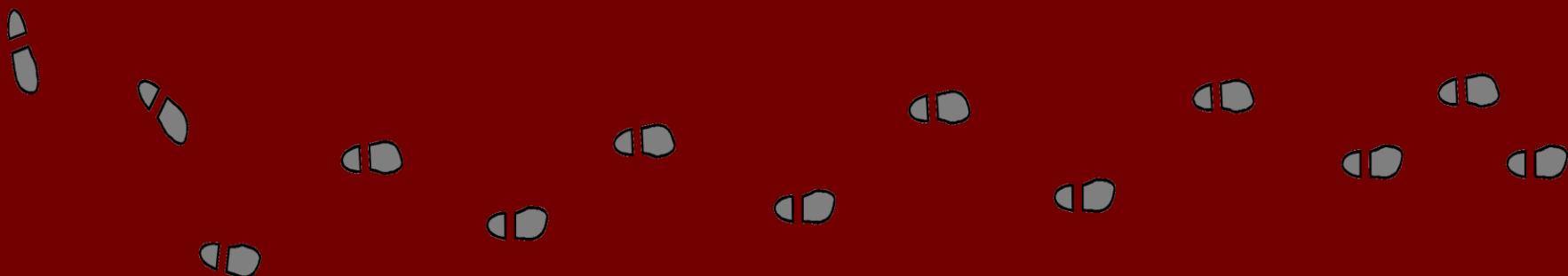
Reversal of image

- Father not literally behind him
- Poet is more troubled by his memory
- Feels guilt at not carrying on the tradition of farming
- Feels he cannot live up to his father's example



Metaphors

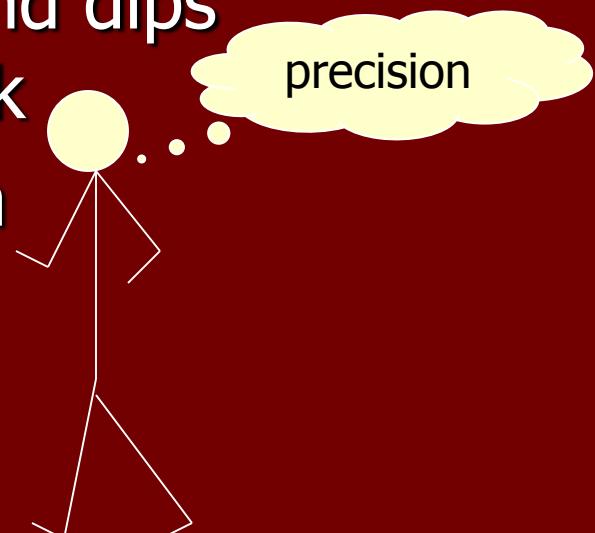
- Child following father's footsteps – wanting to be like him
- Father is sturdy while the child falters – his feet are not big enough for him to be steady on uneven land.



Nautical references

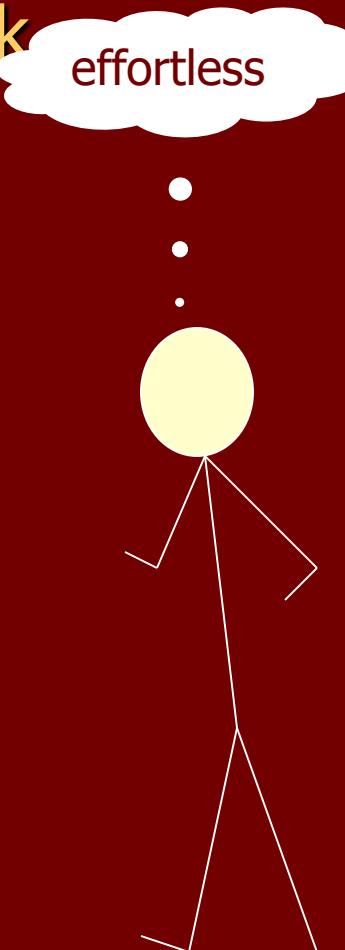
(create an image of farming being highly skilled)

- Father's shoulders are billowing like a sail of the ship
- Sod rolls over without a break (*like a wave*)
- Child stumbles in his walk and dips and rises on his father's back
- Mapping the furrow is like a navigation



Lexicon/register

- Technical terms from farming – wing, sock
headrig
- Active verbs – rolled, stumbled, tripping,
faltering, yapping
- Onomatopoeia – clicking, pluck, yapping
- Contrast – father's control is effortless
(clicking tongue, single pluck/ of reins) while powerful
horses (sweating team) strain
- Words of precision – polished, exactly



metaphor

Follower

The simile creates a picture of the full expanse of the shoulder suggesting power and tautness

My father worked with a horse plough,
His shoulders globed like a full sail strung
Between the shafts and the furrow.
The horses strained at his clicking tongue

Shows the ease of father as compared to the horses which are straining And sweating

An expert. He would set the wing
And fit the bright-pointed sock.
The sod rolled over without breaking.
At the headrig, with a single pluck

technical words

nautical reference

Short/terse/no verb
Emphatic statement

An expert. He would set the wing
And fit the bright-pointed sock.
The sod rolled over without breaking.
At the headrig, with a single pluck

Enjambment evokes a picture
of Ceaseless work coupled with
a sense of ease

In contrast the powerful
Horses seem to be sweating

Of reins, the sweating team turned round
And back into the land. His eye

Nautical reference Narrowed and angled at the ground,
Mapping the furrow exactly.

Builds a picture of
precision

Contrast to the sturdiness and steadiness of the father

I **stumbled** in his hobnailed wake,
Fell sometimes on the polished sod;
Sometimes he rode me on his back
Dipping and rising to his plod.

I wanted to grow up and plough,
To close one eye, stiffen my arm.
All I ever did was follow
In his broad shadow around the farm.

Literally imitating

Suggests broad shoulders

-- **ing form – the present participle adds to the dramatic quality.**

I was a nuisance, tripping, falling,
Yapping always. But today
It is my father who keeps stumbling
Behind me, and will not go away

Transition point

**Not literally
It is the father's
memory that is
haunting him**

Guilt and discomfort