1 Read the following poem carefully and answer the following questions.

_Madam and Her Madam_ by Langston Hughes

I worked for a woman, I said, Madam,
She wasn’t mean – Can it be
But she had a twelve-room You’re trying to make a
House to clean. Pack-horse out of me?
Had to get breakfast She opened her mouth
Dinner, and supper, too – She cried, Oh no!
Then take care of her children You know, Alberta,
When I got through. I love you so!

Wash, iron, and scrub, I said, Madam,
Walk the dog around That may be true –
It was too much, But I’ll be dogged
Nearly broke me down. If I love you!

1 a) How did Alberta feel about her work? Why did she feel so?
Ans: Alberta felt like a pack horse and her work totally broke her down because she needed to do a lot of work like washing, preparing dinner and breakfast, etc.

1 b) How did the ‘madam’ feel about Alberta?
Ans:

1 c) How did Alberta feel about her ‘madam’? Pick out the lines.
Ans:

1 e) Pick out the words in the poem which rhyme? What effect does the rhyme have?
Ans: a. alberta felt like a pack horse and her work totally broke her down because she need to do a lot of work like washing, preparing dinner and breakfast etc.
b. madam felt loved about alberta.
c. she wasn't mean.
d. mean-clean-too-through-around-down-true-you and the effect is syllable.

2 Define the following giving suitable examples:
i Onomatopoeia
ii Simile
iii Allegory
iv Understatement
v Irony

Ans: Onomatopoeia
An onomatopoeia is a word that phonetically imitates, resembles or suggests the source of the sound that it describes. Onomatopoeias are not the same across all languages; they conform to some extent to the broader linguistic system they are part of; hence the sound of a clock may be tick tock in English, or katchin katchin in Japanese, or “tik-tik” in Hindi.

Simile
A simile is a figure of speech that directly compares two things. Similes are a form of metaphor that explicitly use connecting words (such as like, as, so, than, or various verbs such as resemble), though these specific words are not always necessary. While similes are mainly used in forms of poetry that compare the inanimate and the living, there are also terms in which similes and personifications are used for humorous purposes and comparison.

Allegory
An allegory is a work of written, oral, or visual expression that uses symbolic figures, objects, and actions to convey truths or generalizations about human conduct or experience. The word traces back to the Greek word allēgorein meaning "to speak figuratively."

Understatement
Understatement is the practice of suggesting that things have much less of a particular quality than they really have. Example - He informed us with massive understatement that he was feeling disappointed.

Irony in its broadest sense, is a rhetorical device, literary technique, or event in which what appears, on the surface, to be the case, differs radically from what is actually the case.