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| **Hyena**I am waiting for you.I have been travelling all morning through the bushand not eaten.I am lying at the edge of the bushon a dusty path that leads from the burnt-out kraal.I am panting, it is midday, I found no water-hole. I am very fierce without food and although my eyesare screwed to slits against the sunyou must believe I am prepared to spring.What do you think of me?I have a rough coat like Africa.I am crafty with dark spotslike the bush-tufted plains of Africa.I sprawl as a shaggy bundle of gathered energylike Africa sprawling in its waters.I trot, I lope, I slaver, I am a ranger.I hunch my shoulders. I eat the dead.Do you like my song?When the moon pours hard and cold on the veldtI sing, and I am the slave of darkness.Over the stone walls and the mud walls and the ruined placesand the owls, the moonlight falls.I sniff a broken drum. I bristle. My pelt is silver.I howl my song to the moon – up it goes.Would you meet me there in the waste places?It is said I am a good matchfor a dead lion. I put my muzzleat his golden flanks, and tear. Heis my golden supper, but my tastes are easy.I have a crowd of fangs, and I use them.Oh and my tongue – do you like mewhen it comes lolling out over my jawvery long, and I am laughing?I am not laughing.But I am not snarling either, onlypanting in the sun, showing youwhat I gripcarrion with.I am waitingfor the foot to slide,for the heart to seize,for the leaping sinews to go slack,for the fight to the death to be fought to the death,for a glazing eye and the rumour of blood.I am crouching in my dry shadowstill you are ready for me.My place is to pick you cleanand leave your bones to the wind. | Here, Morgan adopts the persona of a Hyena.Menacing tone introduced. Hyena is patient. The word choice in particular shows how creepy the hyena. ‘You’ also creates intimacy with the reader. Word choice here suggests how dry and unwelcoming the land is. Alliterative phrasing here (same sound at start of words) draws attention to the fact that the hyena is still dangerous even when weak.Alliteration, smallness but sharpness of its eyes as it focuses in the heat. Hyena is waiting to kill. Playful tone. Simile – links Hyena to its home, also suggests the coarseness of its fur. Simile – again Hyena is linked to its home, this time the spurts of bushes are like its spots. Simile – the Hyena is lying in wait for its prey. Word choice – firstly suggests its movements , they’re not smooth. Secondly, they are chosen to disgust us, ‘slaver’, and create an image of the hyena gnawing food. It seems negative and ugly. Rhetorical question. Metaphor. Hyena’s are night-time creatures. Associated with bad things – think vampires, witches.Rhetorical question. Challenges the reader, would you want to run into the Hyena at night?The lion is twice described as ‘golden’. The word is majestic which contrasts the lion with the ugliness of the hyena. The last bit tells us the Hyena is not picky about what it eats. Metaphor – creates the idea that the Hyena’s mouth is packed with sharp teeth.Focus on the Hyena’s mouth – the comical tongue on the sharp teeth. Short sentence. Hyena’s howl is not as silly as a laugh. It wants to be taken seriously.Repetition of ‘waiting’ from Stanza 1 highlights again how patient the Hyena is. Catching the waited-for prey and it dying. Word choice of crouching again suggests that the Hyena is waiting and being patient but is prepared. Unsettling final image of you being dead and eaten.  |

The stanzas (or verses) are in free verse – they don’t rhyme or follow a set pattern. Each one does have a clear focus though. Stanza one is about the environment, stanza 2 about the hyena’s appearance, stanza 3 about the night-time, stanza 4 about the hyena’s teeth and stanza 5 is about how it kills things.