



## English II: Reading: Module 2: Lesson 3: Section 4

### Annotate for Meaning

Graphic Organizer: Highlighting Literary Devices and Rhetorical Strategies

**Instructions:** Read the selected excerpts below from a *Sports Illustrated* article, “Give the Kids a Break,” by Steve Rushkin. You can print this file and use a highlighter to mark the literary devices or rhetorical strategies Rushkin uses to make his argument, or you can use your software’s features to highlight and mark the text on-screen. The first example has been provided for you. In addition to allusions, look for similes and alliteration and highlight them. Then in the text box below each question, identify and explain the literary device you highlighted. How is it being used in the excerpt? Mouse over the check boxes to see hints.

1. FOUR SQUARE and seven years ago we had recess: 20 minutes, twice a day, of Darwinian contests whose very names – King of the Hill, Capture the Flag, Keep-Away, Dodgeball – screamed survival of the fittest. After all, Monkey in the Middle isn’t just a playground game; it describes the chain of human evolution.



2. Most of these games were passed down like heirlooms. They crossed continents and centuries with only small modifications, surviving into the modern age with names, such as Duck, Duck, Goose; Mother, May I?; and Miss Mary Mack. Ancient Greeks jumped rope, Caesar’s subjects played a form of Jacks, and Blindman’s Bluff was played in the court of Henry VIII. Pity, then, that none of these games may survive the decade, and for one deeply depressing reason: Red Rover, Red Rover, recess is over.



3. How ever did this happen to the fabled fourth R?

For starters, increased preparation for standardized tests mandated by No Child Left Behind leaves little time for recess. This legislation was passed by Congress, which through Sunday had spent 138 days in recess during this session, safe in the knowledge that eight-year-olds can’t vote. But there are lots of other reasons for the recess recession.



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Allusion to Charles Darwin's theories of natural selection and the survival of the fittest



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Simile – comparison of games played at recess for many years to an heirloom, a valuable item passed from generation to generation

Alliteration – repetition of initial “d” (deepening, depressing) and “r” (red rover, recess) sounds

Allusion – Ancient Greeks, Caesar, Henry VIII



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Alliteration – repetition of initial “f” (fabled fourth) and repetition of “r” (recess recession)

Allusion – the fourth “R” in addition to the well-known Rs: “Readin,” Ritin,” and “Rithmetic”

Allusion to federal legislation “No Child Left Behind”

