**Silas House: A *Parchment of Leaves***

**Language Study: Lyricism in One Beautiful Sentence**

Lyricism sounds like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

What make the lyrics of a song different from conversational speech? Most dictionary definitions define lyricism as something expressed in a poetic way or something expressed with great enthusiasm or emotion.

Consider House’s lyricism in these short sentences:

**“Those words flew out of my mouth, as sneaking and surprising as little birds that had been waiting behind my teeth to get out.” (13)**

* What is being said literally?
* How is the literal made more poetic here?

Here’s my try: My hopes hammered inside, so loudly and ludicrously, that I thought the whole world could hear them booming through enormous speakers.

My hopes (something intangible) hammered (personification) inside, so loudly and ludicrously (description, trying to be alliterative) , that I thought the whole world could hear them booming through enormous speakers (comparison).

You try:

**“I sucked in the smell of the place, memorized the squeaks in the floor.” (19)**

* What is being said literally?
* How is the literal made more poetic here?

Here’s my try: I scoured the framed photographs with my itching eyes, seeking the faces of someone I knew.

You try:

**“The floorboards cried out, so that on a busy day there was a music of creaks that rose up.” (256)**

* What is being said literally?
* How is the literal made more poetic here?

Here’s my try: The room roared loudly, so that I knew that the Herndon family was home, together for the weekend.

You try:

**“The car came onto the white road, black smoke puffing from its pipes.” (241)**

* What is being said literally?
* How is the literal made more poetic here?

Here’s my try: The beagle howled as the key turned, a noisy symphony of doggy welcome.

You try: