

WOODCHUCKS

Maxine Kumin → Known for nuance / hidden mean. / she's animal rts. activist / poet
plural

Gassing the woodchucks didn't turn out right.
The knockout bomb from the Feed and Grain Exchange was featured as merciful, quick at the bone and the case we had against them was airtight, both exits shoehorned shut with puddingstone, but they had a sub-sub-basement out of range.

personification

alliteration

* a subtle rhyme scheme: ABCACB

Next morning they turned up again, no worse for the cyanide than we for our cigarettes and state-store Scotch, all of us up to scratch.

alliter.

They brought down the marigolds as a matter of course and then took over the vegetable patch nipping the broccoli shoots, beheading the carrots.

Allit.

personification

Sestet = 6-line stanzas x 5 stanzas

The food from our mouths, I said, righteously thrilling to the feel of the .22, the bullets' neat noses.

justification?

1st person

I, a lapsed pacifist fallen from grace, puffed with Darwinian preties for killing, now drew a bead on the little woodchuck's face.

allit.

alliteration

expl. expl.

He died down in the everbearing roses.

symbolic

* progression in ferocity = reveals a deeper bloodthirsty speaker; * but doesn't become more dehumanized

Ten minutes later I dropped the mother. She flipfopped in the air and fell, her needle teeth still hooked in a leaf of early Swiss chard.

allit.

Another baby next. One-two-three the murderer inside me rose up hard, the hawkkey killer came on stage forthwith.

(no mercy)

exaltation

metaphors

* poem - hinges on voice about speaker, not animals

There's one chuck left. Old wily fellow, he keeps me cocked and ready day after day after day.

allit.

All night I hunt his humped-up form. I dream I sight along the barrel in my sleep.

If only they'd all consented to die unseen gassed underground the quiet Nazi way.

joining last line > snaps out of humorous anecdote!

* war - imagery underlined

* Blames the sole survivor - would've been easier, but not less cruel

* tone = humorous & horrific (no mercy / sympathy)
hyperbole = exagg. for effect thr. poem