



Study Island 7.4 Pathways

Study Island *Study Guide*

Sound and Structure



Sound Devices

A poem is a type of writing designed to convey experiences, ideas, or emotions in a vivid and imaginative way. Poems are characterized by literary techniques such as rhyme and repetition. These, and other terms, are defined below.

Alliteration

The repetition of the beginning sounds of words is called alliteration. For example: He's a **lily-livered landlubber**.

Assonance

The repetition of vowels without repetition of consonants is called assonance. For example: It's a **holy stony pony**.

Repetition

Sometimes writers want to make sure that you get the point of a certain sentence or idea, so he or she repeats certain words or groups of words. Pay attention to words that are repeated. Sometimes repeated words can help you figure out what's coming next in a piece of writing.

Rhyme

A rhyme is a close similarity of sound or an exact correspondence of two words. **Run** and **done** rhyme with each other.

Internal Rhyme

An internal rhyme is a rhyme in which at least one of the rhyming words is somewhere within a line of poetry and both rhyming words are often in the same line. For example, in "A spatter a scatter a wet cat a clatter," **spatter**, **scatter**, and **clatter** all rhyme and all are in the same line.

Slant Rhyme

A slant rhyme is a partial or imperfect rhyme, often using assonance or consonance (the repetition of consonants, especially at the ends of words) only, as in **dry** and **died** or **grown** and **moon**.

Below is a poem written by Emily Dickinson; it is a **rhymed** poem with five **stanzas**. The rhyming words are in **bold**, and the text in **red** represents one of the five **stanzas**.

I Felt a Funeral, in My Brain

by Emily Dickinson

I felt a Funeral, in my Brain,
And Mourners, to and **fro**
Kept treading — treading — till it seemed
That Sense was breaking **through** —

And when they all were seated,
A Service, like a **Drum** —
Kept beating — beating — till I thought
My Mind was going **numb** —

And then I heard them lift a Box
And creak across my **Soul**
With those same Boots of Lead, again,
Then Space — began to **toll**,

As all the Heavens were a Bell,
And Being, but an **Ear**,
And I, and Silence, some strange Race,
Wrecked, solitary, **here** —

And then a Plank in Reason, broke,
And I dropped down, and down —
And hit a World, at every plunge,
And Finished knowing — then —

Rhythm

Many poems have a **rhythm**. Rhythm is a pattern of sounds that makes a poem sound musical. It is the up-and-down, high-and-low sounds the syllables in words make when they are written out in lines. If each line in a poem has the same number of syllables, the poem most likely has a rhythm. Words in rap songs have a certain beat or "flow" very similar to the words in poems.

Look at how the author makes rhythm by using the same number of syllables in every line.

Waiting for Inspiration

Every line has the same number of syllables.

At/ last/, the/ moon/ has/ come/ but/ you/ have/ not. **10 syllables**

I/ am/ a/lone/ a/gain/ —that/ is/ my/ lot. **10 syllables**

The/ slate/ is/ emp/ty/; I'm/ with/out/ a/ word. **10 syllables**

In/ si/lence,/ on/ly/ my/ heart/beat/ is/ heard. **10 syllables**

I search my soul and find no answer there.

This cluelessness is my burden to bear.

Perhaps you will come shining in my dream.

Till then I will look for a spark—a beam!

Drama

*Not all stories are written for people to read. Some stories are written for people to watch. Stories that people watch are called plays. Plays are also called dramas. A **drama** is a story told by characters talking to each other. Just like stories, plays have a plot, tell a story, and have characters. As the characters talk, the story moves on. Even though plays are meant to be acted out, plays can also be read silently from the page. They just look different than stories.*



Here are some special words you should know when studying drama.

Act	An act is a big portion of a play. It's like a chapter in a book. Most of Shakespeare's plays had five acts.
Cast or Characters	The stage set describes how the stage should look. It gives the director an idea for designing the set. It also gives the audience a better idea of where the play takes place.
Dialogue	Dialogue is the words spoken by characters in a play.
Scene	A scene is a small part of a play. A scene usually has just one event, like a conversation or a fight. A collection of scene make up a single act.
Stage Directions	Stage directions tell actors how to move and speak. Most stage directions are in parentheses () or in <i>italics</i> (words that are slanted). They can also tell you where the play is taking place.
Stage Set	The stage set describes how the stage should look. It gives the director an idea for designing the set. It also gives the audience a better idea of where the play takes place.

STATE FAIR

CHARACTERS:

MADDY

AUDREY

GINNY

PETER

Stage Set: Lights come up on a state fair park. A Ferris wheel is seen spinning behind the children. The noise of people talking slowly fades. MADDY is sitting on the floor by herself when the others approach her.

Act II

Scene I

PETER: *(excited)* Don't you want to go up there? Don't you just want to see the world from so high above?

AUDREY: *(mockingly)* Don't you want to feel like a bird?

MADDY: Puh-lee-ase. *(angry)* Don't you guys want to just leave me alone?

GINNY: Hey, Maddy. Come on. We're just joking. But seriously, come with us!

MADDY: Nah. I like to watch people's faces when they are up in the air.

PETER: But your sister bought you a ticket!

MADDY: Yeah. She can use my ticket. I will watch you. I will watch the birds. *(looks at the sky)* Just go.

Note: Read the drama again. Can you identify the elements of drama in it? How do these elements work together to form a play?

Practice!

Looking at the fields of daffodils,
I am envious of the butterflies.
They flutter, fly and feel the flowers
the way my tender touch cannot compete.

Which line contains an example of alliteration?

- A. Line 1
- B. Line 2
- C. Line 3
- D. Line 4

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Venice

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

White swan of cities, slumbering in thy nest
So wonderfully built among the reeds
Of the lagoon, that fences thee and feeds,
As sayeth thy old historian and thy guest!
White water-lily, cradled and caressed
By ocean streams, and from the silt and weeds
Lifting thy golden filaments and seeds,
Thy sun-illumined spires, thy crown and crest!
White phantom city, whose untrodden streets
Are rivers, and whose pavements are the shifting
Shadows of palaces and strips of sky;
I wait to see thee vanish like the fleets
Seen in a mirage, or towers of cloud uplifting
In air their unsubstantial masonry.

. Which line or lines from the poem is an example of a **assonance**?

- A** White water-lily, cradled and caressed
- B** I wait to see thee vanish like the fleets
- C** As sayeth thy old historian and thy guest!
- D** So wonderfully built among the reeds

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