

Poetic devices: Imagery and aural imagery.

Poets often use imagery in their poems. Imagery is where language is used in such a way as to help us form a kind of “mental picture” of the thing that is being described or the idea that is being explored. Within imagery we can find some examples:

Simile

These are used to make a comparison, they normally use the words “like” or “as”.

Example: “I came in **like a wrecking ball**” Miley Cyrus.



Metaphor

Metaphors are very similar to similes in that they also create a comparison, but instead of saying something is “like” or “as” something, it actually says it is that thing.

Example: “As horror looks right between the eyes, **you’re paralyzed**” Michael Jackson.



Personification

Another form of imagery is created through the technique of attributing human qualities or feelings to something that is not human.

Example: “**Skies are crying**, I am watching, catching tear drops in my hands” Demi Lovato.



Hyperbole

A type of imagery that consists of emphasizing what you are saying by describing it as far more extreme than it really is.

Example: “I’d **catch a grenade** for you, **throw my hand on a blade** for you”
Bruno Mars.

Aural Imagery

Apart from images created through words, poets often make use of images that are created through sound.

Alliteration

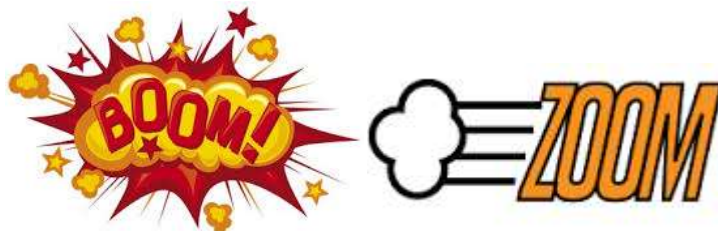
It involves the repetition of initial sounds in two or more words.

Example: “**W**hisper **w**ords of **w**isdom, let it be” The Beatles.

Onomatopoeia

It is another kind of aural device in which the actual sounds of words reflect their meanings. Simple examples would be words like “bang” or “crash”.

Example: “I’m on the supersonic **boom**, y’all hear the space ship **zoom**” The Black Eye Peas.





Activity on Poetic Devices

Now that you know the different types of poetic devices and how do they work, read the following extracts and decide which device is included in them. Since there are twelve excerpts and you have only studied six types, you might have noticed that two correspond to the same type. Once you have decided, try to place them in the Poetic Devices worksheet that you will find in the following page.

1. “But soft, what light through yonder window breaks? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun!” (Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare)
2. That piece of chocolate cake is calling my name.
3. Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.
A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked.
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,
where’s the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?
4. “He cried all night, and dawn found him still there, though his tears had dried and only hard, dry sobs shook his wooden frame. But these were so loud that they could be heard by the faraway hills...”
5. “I’m getting married in the morning! Ding dong! The bells are going to chime.”
6. “When it comes, the landscape listens, / Shadows hold their breath”
7. “Life is like an onion: You peel it off one layer at a time, and sometimes you weep”.
8. Ages have passed since I last saw you.
9. Bow-wow.
The watch-dogs bark!
Bow-wow.
Hark, hark! I hear
10. “Memory is a crazy woman that hoards colored rags and throws away food”
11. “He was like a cock who thought the sun had risen to hear him crow”
12. Alice ate all of the apples in the afternoon.