

Poetic Techniques with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To identify and use figurative language including similes, metaphors, and personification to create vivid imagery in poetry.

Leo the Lion is writing a poem about the Savannah and needs your help to polish his verses. Read the lines below and use the techniques from the word bank to complete the task. You must label the technique used in each line and then rewrite the sentences to make them more descriptive.

Word bank: Simile · Metaphor · Personification · Alliteration · Onomatopoeia

1. Leo wrote: 'The sun is a golden coin in the sky.' Which technique is this, and why did he choose a 'golden coin' instead of just saying 'bright sun'? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

2. Leo wrote: 'The wind whispered secrets through the tall grass.' Which technique is this? Explain how the wind is being given human-like qualities. (2 marks)

3. Leo wrote: 'The river flows like a silver ribbon.' Identify the technique used. If he changed it to 'The river is a silver ribbon', how would the meaning change? Compare and contrast the two. (2 marks)

4. Create an example of alliteration describing a lion's roar. Remember, alliteration requires the repetition of the same letter sound at the start of adjacent words. (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the mood of a poem if the author chose to use 'crash' or 'hiss' (onomatopoeia) instead of simply describing the sound? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

6. Look at this sentence: 'The stars watched the world sleep.' Rewrite this using a simile instead of personification. Does the new version feel more or less peaceful? Justify your choice. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of the Savannah at dusk. In your drawing, include one visual representation of a metaphor (e.g., the sun as a golden coin) and one of personification (e.g., trees stretching their leafy arms toward the moon).



Extension challenge: Write a four-line stanza for Leo's poem about the night sky. Your stanza must include at least one metaphor and one example of alliteration. Use ambitious vocabulary such as 'shimmering', 'vast', 'tranquil', or 'luminous'.