

Poetic Perspectives with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To identify, analyse, and craft poetic devices including metaphors, similes, and personification to convey imagery and emotion.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of figurative language to explore how poets use words to paint vivid pictures in the reader's mind. Refer to the word bank for terminology.

Leo the Lion is writing a poem about the sunrise over the savannah. He wants to ensure his poetry is as powerful as his roar and as thoughtful as his prose.

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

1. Leo writes: 'The sun is a golden coin tossed into the sky.' Identify the poetic device used here and explain why Leo chose this specific comparison instead of saying 'the sun is bright'. (2 marks)

2. Write a sentence using personification to describe the wind blowing through the long savannah grass. Remember to give the wind a human action. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast a simile and a metaphor. Use an example for each to justify your explanation of how they differ. (3 marks)

4. If Leo wanted to describe the sound of a bubbling stream, which poetic device should he use? Provide an example of a word that fits this device. (2 marks)

5. Explain why a poet might choose to use alliteration in a stanza. How does the repetition of sounds affect the rhythm of the poem when read aloud? (3 marks)

6. Justify your answer: Is it more effective for a poet to use a simile to describe a storm, or should they use personification? Support your reasoning with a creative example. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene inspired by a poem you would write about the savannah at sunset. Include one element that uses personification (e.g., a tree waving hello) and label it clearly.



Extension challenge: Compose a short, four-line stanza (a quatrain) about the stars. You must include at least one metaphor, one piece of alliteration, and one example of personification. Once finished, explain how these devices work together to create a specific mood for the reader.