Poetic Perspectives with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To analyse, compose, and evaluate figurative language and poetic devices including metaphors, similes, and personification.

Leo the Lion is writing a collection of poems about the natural world. He needs your help to refine his imagery. Complete the tasks below by selecting the most evocative language and justifying your creative choices. Ensure your writing uses precise vocabulary to create a vivid atmosphere.

Word bank: metaphor · simile · personification · alliteration · onomatopoeia · vivid imagery · rhythm

1. Leo wrote: 'The wind blew through the trees.' Rewrite this sentence using personification to make the wind sound like a mischievous character. Explain how your choice of verb changes the mood of the poem. (2 marks)

2. Compare these two lines: 'The moon is a bright coin' and 'The moon is like a bright coin'. Which uses a metaphor and which uses a simile? Explain why a poet might choose a metaphor over a simile for a more powerful effect. (2 marks)

3. Identify the technique used in this phrase: 'The silver stream sang a soft, secret song.' Why is this specific technique effective when read aloud? (2 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If you were describing a thunderstorm, would you use harsh, plosive alliteration (like 'b' or 'p' sounds) or soft, sibilant sounds (like 's' or 'sh')? Why? (2 marks)

5. Imagine a bustling city market. Write one line that uses onomatopoeia to bring the scene to life for the reader. (2 marks)

6. What might happen to the reader's engagement if a poem contained only literal descriptions without any figurative language? Provide a reasoned argument. (2 marks)

Draw: Sketch a scene that represents your favourite metaphor from the questions above. Label your drawing with the specific poetic device you used to describe the scene.

Extension challenge: Compose a short poem (8-12 lines) about a changing season. You must include at least one metaphor, one simile, and one instance of alliteration. Once finished, write a brief paragraph explaining why you chose those specific devices to convey the feeling of that season.