

The Art of Poetry with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To identify poetic devices and understand how poets use language to create imagery and mood.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below. Use evidence from the text to support your answers.

Leo the Lion is not like other lions who spend their days prowling the savannah. Instead, Leo spends his afternoons sitting beneath the ancient acacia tree, scribbling verses in his dusty notebook. He believes that poetry is a way to paint pictures with words rather than brushes. When Leo writes, he focuses on rhythm, making sure his words dance off the page like light bouncing on water. He often uses personification, imagining the wind as a soft-spoken traveller telling secrets to the grass.

'Poetry is not just about rhyming,' Leo explains to his friends. 'It is about capturing a feeling, like the golden glow of a sunset or the quiet shiver of a morning breeze.' He loves to use alliteration to make his lines hum, such as writing about 'busy bees buzzing in the bright blossoms.' By choosing his nouns and adjectives with great care, Leo turns simple descriptions into vivid scenes. For Leo, every poem is an adventure, inviting the reader to stop, listen, and see the world through a poet's gentle eyes.

Word bank: alliteration · metaphor · personification · imagery · rhythm · stanza

1. According to the text, what does Leo use instead of paintbrushes to create pictures? (1 mark)

2. List two poetic devices that Leo uses in his writing, as mentioned in the passage. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Leo describes the wind as a 'soft-spoken traveller'? (2 marks)

4. How does the author show that Leo is different from other lions? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Leo’s approach to poetry makes it easier or harder to understand? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw Leo the Lion sitting under the acacia tree with his notebook, capturing the 'golden glow of a sunset' as he writes his poetry.

Extension challenge: Write your own four-line poem about a natural setting. Try to include one example of alliteration and one example of personification.