

The Weaver of Verses

Learning objective: To analyse poetic devices and identify the impact of language choices on the reader.

Read the passage carefully, paying close attention to the figurative language used by the narrator. Answer the questions in full sentences, using evidence from the text to justify your responses.

Pip the caterpillar spends his afternoons nestled within the velvet folds of an old, leather-bound anthology. To Pip, a poem is not merely a collection of ink on a page; it is a tapestry woven from golden threads of imagination. He watches as the rhythm of the verses dances across the paper, mimicking the gentle sway of leaves in a summer breeze. Sometimes, a well-placed metaphor blooms like a wild primrose, transforming a simple description into a vivid portrait of a distant landscape. When the poet uses alliteration, Pip feels the words clicking together like clockwork gears, creating a melodic hum that vibrates through his tiny antennae. He believes that poetry is a bridge between the reader's soul and the hidden secrets of the universe. Each stanza acts as a stepping stone, inviting the reader to leap across the river of mundane life into a realm where the impossible becomes tangible. For Pip, the beauty of language lies not in the definition of words, but in the shimmering, silent echoes they leave behind long after the final line is read.

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

1. Identify two specific poetic techniques that Pip observes in the text. (2 marks)

2. According to the passage, how does the poet's use of alliteration affect Pip? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the author describes a poem as a 'bridge' in the third sentence of the second paragraph. (3 marks)

4. What might the author mean by the phrase 'the river of mundane life'? (3 marks)

5. Do you agree with Pip's belief that the 'beauty of language lies not in the definition of words'? Justify your answer with reference to the text. (4 marks)

Draw: Illustrate Pip the caterpillar sitting on a giant, open book, surrounded by glowing, floating words that are transforming into physical objects like flowers, bridges, and clockwork gears.



Extension challenge: Compose a short poem (8-10 lines) describing a natural scene. You must include one metaphor, one instance of personification, and at least one example of alliteration. Once finished, explain how these devices change the 'mood' of your poem compared to writing the same description in plain, factual prose.