

Poetic Perspectives with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To identify and analyse the use of imagery, metaphor, and personification within descriptive poetry.

Read the poem below carefully. Pay close attention to how Leo the Lion uses descriptive language to bring the African savannah to life. Answer the questions in full sentences, using evidence from the text to justify your ideas.

The sun, a glowing copper coin, climbs high,
To watch the golden grasses start to sway.
The thirsty wind begins its mournful sigh,
And chases shadows through the heat of day.

Beneath the ancient, gnarled acacia tree,
The silence hums a tune of dusty light.
I sit and write what only eyes can see:
The velvet velvet creep of coming night.

Word bank: Personification · Metaphor · Imagery · Stanza · Rhythm · Alliteration

1. Identify the metaphor in the first stanza. What does this comparison suggest about the sun's appearance and value to the landscape? (2 marks)

2. Explain how the poet uses personification when describing the 'thirsty wind'. Why might a poet choose to give human traits to the wind? (2 marks)

3. Find an example of alliteration in the poem. How does the sound of these words affect the rhythm of the line? (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the mood of the first stanza with the second stanza. What clues does Leo the Lion provide to show this change? (3 marks)

5. Justify why the poet uses the phrase 'velvet creep' to describe the sunset. What does this tell the reader about the transition from day to night? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw the scene described in the second stanza. Focus on the 'dusty light' beneath the acacia tree and the 'velvet' colours of the approaching night.



Extension challenge: What might happen to the poem's meaning if Leo replaced the 'glowing copper coin' metaphor with a 'blazing white spotlight'? Write a short paragraph explaining how this change would alter the reader's perception of the savannah's climate and atmosphere.