

Poetic Perspectives with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To analyse poetic devices and craft an original poem using figurative language.

Read the poem below written by Leo the Lion. Use your knowledge of metaphors, personification, and sensory imagery to answer the questions that follow.

The Sun's Golden Grin

The sun climbs high, a golden coin in the sky,
Watching the world with a warm, steady eye.
He stretches his fingers of light through the trees,
Whispering secrets to the rustling breeze.

Down in the meadow, the flowers awake,
Dancing in rhythm beside the still lake.
The silver stream giggles, a babbling song,
Where shadows grow tall, where the day feels so long.

I sit by the rushes, my notebook in hand,
Mapping the magic of this quiet land.
The ink flows like rivers, capturing sight,
Turning the day into lines of delight.

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

1. Identify the example of personification in the second stanza. Explain how this gives the stream a human-like quality. (2 marks)

2. Leo uses the metaphor 'a golden coin in the sky'. What does this suggest about the sun's appearance and value to the world? (2 marks)

3. Find an example of alliteration in the poem. Why might a poet choose to use this technique? (2 marks)

4. Compare the imagery of the 'golden coin' in the first stanza to the 'silver stream' in the second. What mood do these descriptions create? (3 marks)

5. Justify why Leo describes his ink as flowing 'like rivers'. What does this tell us about his writing process? (2 marks)

6. What might happen if the poem were written without any personification? Explain how this would change the reader's connection to the natural world. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw your own interpretation of the 'golden coin' sun and the 'giggling' stream. Add labels to your drawing that highlight the poetic devices you have visualised.



Extension challenge: Leo wants to write a second verse about the moon. Write a four-line stanza using at least one metaphor and one example of personification to describe the night sky. Explain why you chose those specific words to convey the atmosphere of the night.