

Grade 4 Poetry Assessment: Imagery and Form

Learning objective: To analyze poetic devices, understand structural techniques, and compose original verse using figurative language.

Read the poem below carefully. Answer all questions in full sentences. Ensure your SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) is accurate.

The silver moon is a silent coin,
Tossed high into the velvet night.
It watches the forest, ancient and deep,
Where shadows dance in the fading light.

The wind whispers secrets to the pines,
Combing their needles with fingers of air,
While stars, like diamonds, scatter and glow,
A glittering treasure beyond compare.

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

1. Identify the simile used in the second stanza. Why did the poet choose to compare stars to diamonds? (2 marks)

2. Find an example of personification in the poem. Explain how this technique changes the way the reader visualises the wind. (3 marks)

3. Explain the metaphor in the first line. What does this suggest about the appearance and movement of the moon? (3 marks)

4. Identify one example of alliteration in the poem and state why a poet might use this technique. (2 marks)

5. How does the poet's choice of adjectives (e.g., 'velvet', 'ancient', 'glittering') influence the mood of the poem? Use evidence from the text. (4 marks)

6. Compare and contrast the imagery used to describe the moon and the stars. How do these images work together to create a sense of scale? (4 marks)

7. Extension Writing Task: Compose a new four-line stanza (a quatrain) that could follow this poem. You must include at least one metaphor and one piece of alliteration to describe the arrival of dawn. (7 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene based on the poem, ensuring you include the 'silver coin' moon and the 'diamond' stars, paying close attention to how you might represent the 'velvet night' using color and texture.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Justify why the poet chose to structure the poem in two stanzas rather than one long block of text. What might happen to the reader's experience if the rhythm was interrupted by a sudden change in line length?