Crafting Vivid Imagery: A Poetry Writing Frame

Learning objective: To compose a descriptive poem using figurative language, including metaphors, similes, and personification, to evoke a specific mood for the reader.

Follow this scaffold to build your poem stanza by stanza. Focus on showing, not telling, by using your five senses to describe your subject. Use the word bank to enhance your vocabulary.

The ancient oak tree stood as a weary guardian, its gnarled fingers tracing patterns against the bruised purple of the twilight sky.

Word bank: shimmering · melancholy · vibrant · as silent as · breathed · whispered · a tapestry of · piercing · nevertheless · consequently · beneath the surface

1. Stanza 1: Setting the Scene. Describe your subject using a simile or metaphor. Start with: 'The [subject] was like a...', or 'The [subject] is a...' (3 marks)

2. Stanza 2: Personification. Give your subject human qualities. Start with: 'It sighed when...', or 'It watched the world with...' (3 marks)

3. Stanza 3: Sensory Details. Describe the sounds or smells. Start with: 'A symphony of [sound] echoed as...', or 'The air tasted of...' (3 marks)

4. Stanza 4: Reflection. Explain why this subject is significant. Start with: 'I wonder if...', or 'It remains a mystery because...' (3 marks)

5. Explain why you chose specific adjectives to create a particular mood in your second stanza. (4 marks)

6. Justify your answer: If you removed all the metaphors from your poem, how would the impact on the reader change? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Compare and contrast your poem with a piece of prose describing the same subject. What might happen if you rewrote your poem as a formal report? Write a short paragraph explaining the differences in tone and vocabulary.