

The Weaver of Words

Learning objective: To identify and explain how poets use imagery, figurative language, and structure to create an emotional response in the reader.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below, ensuring you use evidence from the passage to support your points.

Leo the lion sat under the ancient oak tree, his notebook resting on his golden paws. Poetry, he mused, is not merely a collection of rhyming lines; it is a tapestry woven from the threads of experience. To write a poem is to capture a fleeting moment—the way the morning mist clings to the meadows or how the sunset bleeds orange across the horizon—and hold it steady for the reader. Leo dipped his quill into the inkwell, watching a single drop fall like a dark, silent tear. He believed that strong poetry should dance with rhythm, using words that clash and chime like bells. Sometimes, he employed personification, giving the wind a voice to whisper secrets through the long, swaying grass. Other times, he painted vivid pictures using metaphors, turning a simple stream into a silver ribbon winding through the woods. For Leo, poetry was a brave act of sharing one's inner world. Whether writing of quiet starlit nights or the bustling energy of the forest, he knew that every verse was a bridge built between his heart and the hearts of those who listened.

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

1. According to the passage, what does Leo believe poetry is, and what does he compare it to? (2 marks)

2. Find two examples of figurative language used by Leo that are mentioned in the text. (2 marks)

3. Why does the author describe the ink drop as a 'dark, silent tear'? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'a bridge built between his heart and the hearts of those who listened' suggest about the purpose of poetry? (2 marks)

5. Do you agree with Leo's idea that poetry is a 'brave act'? Justify your opinion using evidence from the text or your own perspective. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Leo the lion writing poetry under a large oak tree. Include visual representations of two metaphors or pieces of personification mentioned in the text, such as a 'silver ribbon' stream or the wind whispering through the grass.



Extension challenge: Write a short stanza of four lines using personification to describe a natural object, just as Leo does in the passage.