

Exploring Poetic Devices with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To identify and explain the use of figurative language, including metaphors, similes, and personification, within a poem.

Read the poem below written by Leo the Lion. Use your knowledge of poetic devices to answer the questions that follow.

The silver moon is a glowing lantern in the velvet night,
Watching the world with a thousand sleepy eyes.
The wind whispers secrets to the rustling leaves,
Dancing like a ballerina across the dark, quiet skies.

The stars are scattered diamonds on a blanket of black,
Shimmering softly as the clouds drift past,
Nature rests in the hush of the midnight hour,
Until the golden sun wakes the day at last.

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

1. Identify the metaphor in the first line. What is the moon being compared to, and why might the poet have chosen this image? (2 marks)

2. Find an example of personification in the first stanza. Explain how the object is being given human qualities. (2 marks)

3. Locate the simile in the second line of the first stanza. How does this comparison help you visualise the movement of the wind? (2 marks)

4. In the second stanza, the stars are described as 'scattered diamonds'. What does this tell you about how the stars look in the night sky? (2 marks)

5. Find an example of alliteration in the poem. Which sounds are being repeated? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of the scene described in Leo's poem. Try to include the 'glowing lantern' moon and the 'scattered diamonds' of the stars.



Extension challenge: Write your own four-line stanza about the sunrise. Try to include at least one piece of personification and one metaphor to describe the morning light.