

Reference 285 continued from previous page.

Simile compares things by using the words *like* or *as*.

Metaphor compares things by stating that one thing is something else.

Personification compares things by giving something nonhuman human qualities.

4. Sound Devices

The fourth element is **sound devices**. Good poetry will contain some sound devices, but not too many to make it unpleasant. Three kinds of sound devices are **alliteration**, **assonance**, and **repetition**.

Alliteration is the repetition of initial consonant sounds (sounds at the beginning of words).

Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds within words.

Repetition refers to the repeating of any words, phrases, or clauses anywhere within the poem.

5. Symbolism

The fifth element is **symbolism**. A **symbol** is something that stands for or represents something else.

Symbolism examples: A dove can be a symbol of peace. Seasons can be symbols of times of life. Spring can symbolize birth or youth. Winter can symbolize death or old age.

Learn It: QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU ANALYZE A POEM



Reference 286

Writing an Analysis of a Poem

First, read the poem you are analyzing. Then, use the questions below to guide your note taking and to help you write an analysis of your poem.

First paragraph: Write an introduction, including the content and structure of the poem.

1. Give the title and author of the poem.
2. Tell whether the poem is a lyric, narrative, or combination of both.
3. Give a brief explanation of the main thoughts and feelings of the poem.
4. Tell whether the poem is rhymed verse or free verse.

Second paragraph: Include information about the use of figurative language in the poem.

1. Are similes used in the poem? (*Give examples.*)
2. Are metaphors used in the poem? (*Give examples.*)
3. Is personification used in the poem? (*Give examples.*)

Third paragraph: Include information about the use of sound devices in the poem.

1. Is alliteration used in the poem? (*Give examples.*)
2. Is assonance used in the poem? (*Give examples.*)
3. Is repetition used in the poem? (*Give examples.*)

Fourth paragraph: Include the use of symbolism in the poem and explain what you think it means.

Is symbolism used in the poem? (*Give examples.*)

Give explanation of what you think it means.

Fifth paragraph: Write a conclusion to finalize your analysis.

1. Summarize what you think the author's main idea is in the poem.
2. Give your opinion of any conclusions you think the author makes.