

Poetic Devices

1. Literary devices used in Dust of Snow by Robert Frost

Alliteration:

Alliteration is the repetition of same consonant sound in the nearby words

Alliteration spotted in the "Dust of Snow"

Has given my heart

And saved some part

Alliterative words: Has, Heart; Saved Some

2. Analysis of Literary Devices in “Fire and Ice”

Writers and poets use Literary Devices to bring uniqueness and depth in the simple texts. They also allow multiple interpretations of the texts. Robert Frost has also used some literary devices in this poem. The analysis of some of the literary devices used in this poem is given below.

- a) **Assonance:** Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds in the same line such as the long sound of /o/ in “I hold with those who favor fire”.
- b) **Alliteration:** Alliteration is the repetition of consonant sounds in the same line such as the sound of /f/ in “I hold with those who favor fire”.
- c) **Imagery:** Imagery is used to make readers perceive things involving their five senses. For example, “Some say the world will end in fire” and “To say that for destruction ice, is also great”.
- d) **Symbolism:** Symbolism is a use of symbols to signify ideas and qualities, by giving them symbolic meanings different from their literal meanings. “Fire” is the symbol of desires and “Ice” symbolizes hatred. Similarly, “green” and “gold” are the symbol of beauty and happiness.
- e) **Anaphora:** It refers to the repetition of a word or expression in the first part of some verses. For example,
“Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.”
- f) **Personification:** Personification is to give human qualities to inanimate objects. In this poem, “Fire” and “Ice” are capable of destruction. Therefore, the poet personifies fire and ice by giving them a mind which is capable of destroying almost anything.
- g) “From what I’ve tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire.”

3. A Tiger in the Zoo Poem and Explanation

He stalks in his vivid stripes

The few steps of his cage,

On pads of velvet quiet,

In his quiet rage.

Stalks: follows

Vivid: bright colored

Pads: paws of tiger

Rage: anger

Here the poet says that the tiger that is confined in the zoo moves around in the cage under his bright coloured skin. He further says that the tiger can take only a few steps because the cage is small and it is not easy to move in it. One cannot hear his footsteps because he has very soft feet, like velvet because of which there is no sound of the tiger's footsteps. The tiger tries to control his anger by quietly walking in the limited area of his cage. He is angry because he is not free.

Literary devices

- Personification: The tiger is personified because the poet refers him as 'he'.
- Metaphor: Tiger's paws are compared with velvet (pads of velvet)
- Imagery: poet tries to create an image about the tiger (He stalks in his vivid stripes The few steps of his cage)
- Assonance: use of vowel sound 'I' (in his vivid stripes)
- Oxymoron: use of adjectives opposite in meaning (quiet rage)

He should be lurking in shadow,
Sliding through long grass
Near the water hole
Where plump deer pass.

The poet says that if this tiger was free, he would have hid himself behind the long grass near the water bodies so that he could easily catch a deer in order to have it as its food. Basically, the poet wants to say that the actual life of a tiger is to live in jungle where he could catch his prey and eat it but the tiger in the cage can not do so.

Literary devices

- Alliteration: use of sound 'p' at the start of two words (plump pass)
- Imagery: The poet has tries to create an image of tiger's activities (lurking in shadow).

He should be snarling around houses
At the jungle's edge,
Baring his white fangs, his claws,
Terrorising the village!

The poet says that if the tiger would have been free, he would have snarled around the houses located at the outskirts of the forest. He would terrorise people with his sharp tooth and claws. This would create fear among the people living in the villages.

Literary devices

- Onomatopoeia: using words which denote sound (snarling)
- Assonance: use of vowel sound 'o' and 'I' (should, around, houses), (Baring, his, white, his)

But he's locked in a concrete cell,
His strength behind bars,
Stalking the length of his cage,
Ignoring visitors.

Now the poet comes to the reality of the tiger that is inside the cage. He says that the tiger

is confined in a strong cell which is made of strong building material. He further says that as the tiger is behind bars, so his ferociousness is also behind the bars. He just stalks in the cage. He never tries to terrorise the visitors because his power is restricted by the cage. Therefore, he never tries to terrorise the visitors as he cannot attack them.

Literary devices

- Personification: The tiger is personified because the poet refers him as 'he'.
- Assonance: use of vowel sound 'e' (he, locked, concrete, cell)
- Alliteration: use of sound 'b' at the start of two words (behind bars)

He hears the last voice at night,
The patrolling cars,
And stares with his brilliant eyes
At the brilliant stars.

The poet says that in the night, the tiger hears the sounds of the patrolling cars. Patrolling cars are the vehicles of police which are used to guard at night. So, in the night the tiger hears the sounds of these cars. He then stares at the shining stars with his shining eyes. The poet wants to say that the tiger is sad and as he is confined in the cage, so, he cannot do anything. Therefore, he stares at the stars in the night and tries to divert his thoughts towards them.

Literary devices:

- Alliteration: use of sound 'h' in the starting of two words (he hears)
- Assonance: use of 'I' sound (with, his, brilliant)

4. How to Tell Wild Animals Poem and Explanation

If ever you should go by chance
To jungles in the east;
And if there should to you advance
A large and tawny beast,
If he roars at you as you're dyin'
You'll know it is the Asian Lion...

Tawny: yellowish brown color

The poet is telling the readers that how they can recognize various animals in the jungles of the east. So, in first stanza she says that if the reader comes across an animal whose skin is yellowish brown in colour and if it roars at him so strongly that he can die out of fear, it means that he has encountered an Asian Lion. She has humorously explained the Asian Lion which could kill a person with its roar.

Or if some time when roaming round,
A noble wild beast greets you,
With black stripes on a yellow ground,
Just notice if he eats you.

This simple rule may help you learn
The Bengal Tiger to discern.

Noble: high born, aristocratic

Discern: recognize

She explains an animal that roams in the jungle and belongs to a royal clan. The colour of its skin is yellowish with black stripes. She says that if you notice that he kills you and eats you up, then this means that you have surely seen a Bengal Tiger. This time also she has used dark humour to explain how a tiger looks like because once a person has been eaten up by a wild animal, there is no use in determining which wild animal it is.

If strolling forth, a beast you view,
Whose hide with spots is peppered,
As soon as he has lept on you,
You'll know it is the Leopard.
'Twill do no good to roar with pain,
He'll only lep and lep again.

The poet says that if you are casually walking in a jungle, you will meet an animal who has a skin with spots on it. This animal is so fast that it will leap on you at once which means that it will jump on you. This jumping is an indication that it is none other than the Leopard. Moreover, she adds that if you will cry out in pain, it is not going to be of any use as it will keep on jumping on you. So, in this stanza the poet has explained the characteristic of a leopard.

Literary Devices

Repetition: use of 'lep' word in the last line.

Assonance: use of vowel sound 'o' (strolling-forth-you, whose-spot, do no good to roar)

If when you're walking round your yard
You meet a creature there,
Who hugs you very, very hard,
Be sure it is a Bear.
If you have any doubts, I guess
He'll give you just one more caress.

Yard: backyard or the lawn area of a house

Caress: A gentle touch

If you are walking in the lawn area of your house and you meet a creature which hugs you tightly, it is a bear. She further adds that if you are still in doubt regarding the animal, the easiest way is that he will keep hugging and touching you very gently. This act of his will make you sure about its identity. You will come to know that it is a bear.

Literary Devices

Alliteration: use of 'w' sound (when-walking), use of 'h' sound (who- hugs), use of 'b' sound (be-bear)

Assonance: use of vowel 'e' (meet a creature there)

Though to distinguish beasts of prey
A novice might nonplus,
The Crocodile you always may
Tell from the Hyena thus:
Hyenas come with merry smiles;
But if they weep they're Crocodiles

The poet says that for someone who is new to the job of recognizing animals, it will be like a puzzle to recognize animals that hunt other animals for their food. So here the poet tries to help out the readers by telling the difference between two animals. He says that Hyenas will be smiling whereas if it is a crocodile, it is always in tears. Both of these animals are dangerous.

The true Chameleon is small,
A lizard sort of thing;
He hasn't any ears at all,
And not a single wing.
If there is nothing on the tree,
'Tis the chameleon you see.

The poet says that the next is Chameleon which is a small creature. It looks like a lizard but the difference between the two is that chameleon does not have ears and wings. Moreover she says that chameleon has the ability to change its color according to the surface on which it is sitting. Therefore, if you see a tree and find nothing else on it, then it must be a chameleon sitting on it. It has changed its colour into the color of tree.

Literary Devices

Alliteration: use of 'h' sound (he hasn't)

5. Literary Poetic Device in the poem The Ball Poem

Poetic Device	Example
Personification	Merrily bouncing, down the street
Metaphor	balls will be lost always

Explanation:

Personification is the technique or practice of representing objects, qualities, etc. as humans, in art and literature. Poems, 'The Brook', 'Song of the Rain', and 'Ode to Autumn' are some famous examples of personification.

Metaphor is a word or phrase used to describe a person or something else in a way that is different from its normal use, in order to show that the two things have the same qualities and to make the description more powerful, for example 'She has a heart of stone.'
