

Scholarly Prep

POETRY

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**SCHOLARLY TEST
PREP**
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KEY TIPS AND TRICKS

1. **DO NOT INTERPRET LITERALLY!**
2. Look for the figurative meaning by breaking down the figurative techniques used
3. Relate it to the author's background, poem context, embedded message etc.
4. Note the **rhyme** and **rhythm** - it helps to read aloud



COMMON FIGURATIVE TECHNIQUES IN POEMS

- **Alliteration** - repetition of the initial letter or sound in two or more words in a line
- **Onomatopoeia** - words that spell out sounds/sound like what they mean e.g. pop, crack etc.
- **Repetition** - using the same key word or phrase throughout a poem
- **Simile** - a comparison between two usually unrelated things using the word “*like*” or “*as*”

- **Metaphor** - an implied comparison between two usually unrelated things
- **Hyperbole** - an exaggeration for the sake of emphasis
- **Personification** - giving human characteristics to inanimate objects, ideas or animals
- **Symbol** - a word or image that signifies something other than what is literally represented e.g. dark colours symbolising death
- **Imagery** - using words to create a picture in the reader's mind. Vivid imagery is commonly used - imagery using different senses
- **Free verse** - poetry that doesn't follow rules e.g. no rhyme, no rhythm, no meter etc.
- **Allusion** - a reference to another piece of literature or to history