

Poetry

Lyric Poems convey the strong feelings of the poet and may sound like songs.

Literary Elements

Words **Rhyme** when their endings sound the same or nearly the same. Rhymes mostly occur at the end of lines of poetry.

A **Simile** is a comparison between two unlike things using *like* or *as*.

Repetition involves repeating a word or phrase for rhythmic effect and emphasis.

from *Caged Bird*

by Maya Angelou

The free bird leaps
on the back of the wind
and floats downstream
till the current ends
and dips his wings
in the orange sun rays
and dares to claim the sky.

But a bird that stalks
down his narrow cage
can seldom see through
his bars of rage
his wings are clipped and
his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.

“Trill,” “still,” “hill”
all rhyme, as do
“heard” and “bird.”



I DREAM A WORLD

by Langston Hughes

I dream a world where man
 No other will scorn,
 Where love will bless the earth
 And peace its paths adorn.
 I dream a world where all
 Will know sweet freedom's way,
 Where greed no longer saps the soul
 Nor avarice blights our day.
 A world I dream where black or white,
 Whatever race you be,
 Will share the bounties of the earth
 And every man is free,
 Where wretchedness will hang its head
 And joy, like a pearl,
 Attend the needs of all mankind—
 Of such I dream, my world!

The title is repeated throughout the poem to emphasize the importance of this idea.



Here joy is compared to a pearl to form a simile.

Connect and Compare



1. Langston Hughes repeats the phrase “I dream a world” throughout the poem. How does this repetition give the last line of the poem greater emphasis? **Repetition**
2. How does the poet of “Caged Bird” use the image of birds to express her feelings about humans? **Analyze**
3. How do you think Rosa Parks would have felt about these poems? Would she have agreed or disagreed with the poets’ ideas? **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



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Write an Eyewitness Account

Writer's Craft

Mood

Good writers use precise words to reinforce **mood**. They let their own voices shine through their writing. Writers share feelings and ideas, and they might decide to talk directly to the audience when they write.

The Birth of a Twister

by Tyrone W.

When I stepped out of my house that afternoon, I knew that something was very different. It was 3:30 P.M. and I noticed that no birds were chirping. Usually, you can hear dozens of birds singing and see them in the trees.

The next thing I noticed was that there was no breeze. The leaves in the trees seemed to be standing still. If you had been there, you would have thought it was weird, too!

I walked to the end of my street and then I saw it. There was a gigantic cloud looming in the far-off sky. Thick and dark, its shape reminded me of a bull charging a red flag. It was the worst thing I had ever seen. I stood still and watched the giant cloud come closer. Suddenly, a strange line became visible near its front. When the line came close to touching the ground, I realized that it was a tornado! I had just watched a tornado being born! I ran home as fast as I could, told my parents, and hurried to the basement.

Fortunately, the tornado had touched down for only a few minutes in some fields on the outskirts of town. Those just happened to be the same few minutes that I was watching it!

I established an ominous mood.

I used words such as *weird*.



Your Turn

Write an eyewitness account of an important event. This event can be something that happened in your life or it can be an event from history. If you write about a historical event, remember to write as if you were there watching it happen. Be sure to use a strong, original voice, and try to speak directly to the audience when it is appropriate. Use the Writer's Checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Did I retell my experience clearly?
Did I include strong descriptions?
- Organization:** Did I organize my paper in a logical way?
Did I share events in the correct order?
- Voice:** Did I share my experience in a way that only I could?
- Word Choice:** Did I use precise words to reinforce **mood**?
- Sentence Fluency:** Did I use different kinds of sentences to add interest to my writing?
- Conventions:** Did I edit and proofread my essay?