

# Alliteration And Onomatopoeia

Alliteration and onomatopoeia are called poetic devices. Both are methods of using words and sounds for effect in a poem.

Alliteration is the repetition of a beginning sound for effect. These may be vowel or consonant sounds. The alliterative sounds have been underlined in the following examples.

The alligator ate only apples and avocados.

Brown bears burrow below boulders.

*Underline the alliteration in these sentences.*

1. The warm wind wafted across the window.
2. I accidentally ate an awful apple.
3. Slipping and sliding, I stumbled in the snow and slush.
4. Beth borrowed Barry's books before biology.
5. The gallant goat gobbled garbage greedily.

*Finish these sentences with alliterations of your own.*

1. Red roses \_\_\_\_\_
2. Swiftly swimming \_\_\_\_\_
3. While wandering \_\_\_\_\_
4. The tired traveler \_\_\_\_\_
5. The ribbon of road \_\_\_\_\_

Onomatopoeia is the imitation of natural sounds. For example: The steam hissed from the open valve. Onomatopoeia is a poetic device that produces an auditory image to the reader.

*Underline the words you "hear" in these sentences.*

1. The train rumbled down the track.
2. The hard-hit tennis ball whistled by my ear.
3. The truck's brakes screeched in the distance.
4. The old floor creaked as we walked slowly across it.
5. The rain beat on the barn roof.

*Complete the following sentences using onomatopoeia of your own.*

1. The angry dog \_\_\_\_\_
2. The rusty gate \_\_\_\_\_
3. The branches \_\_\_\_\_
4. Her floppy shoes \_\_\_\_\_
5. The bicycle \_\_\_\_\_
6. His arrow \_\_\_\_\_

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Write alliterations for these beginning consonants.

**B** \_\_\_\_\_ **C** \_\_\_\_\_ **F** \_\_\_\_\_ **D** \_\_\_\_\_

Underline the alliterations in these poems.

## A WALK

As we wandered through the willows  
With wet grass between our toes,  
Daffodils grew delicately  
Amidst the lilacs so lovely.

## DANDELION

O little soldier with the golden helmet,  
What are you guarding on my lawn?  
You with your green gun  
And your yellow beard,  
Why do you stand so stiff?  
There is only the grass to fight!

Hilda Conkling

## NIGHT

Night is a purple pumpkin,  
Laced with a silver web,  
And the moon a golden spider,  
Wandering through the strands.  
At dawn the purple pumpkin,  
Rolling slowly around,  
Leans against the star-web,  
Moving the spider down.  
The silver web slides slowly,  
Slowly across the sky,  
And the spider moon creeps slowly,  
Slowly by.  
The twinkling stars cease spinning  
Their skeins of silver gray,  
The spider moon  
Crawls down the strands  
And night turns into day. Patricia Hubbell

Which poem seems to have more movement? \_\_\_\_\_

Give an example from this poem, that shows something moving. \_\_\_\_\_

Find an example of alliteration that shows something moving in this poem. \_\_\_\_\_

Underline the onomatopoeia and circle the alliteration in these stanzas.

The firecrackers snapped in the dark light  
While sizzling sparklers flashed bright light.

When the attic floor creaked  
Flashes of moonlight streaked  
Across the ancient window  
While thunder beat a crescendo.

As the parade passed by  
The trumpets blared  
And the drums beat a rapid tattoo  
The crowd roared and saluted the flag  
Waving banners of every hue.

The mighty surf crashed the shore  
The bubbles bursting in foam  
Angry gulls cried overhead  
And they wheeled away toward home.