

2008 Junior Cert Poetry

Choose any poem you have studied which has interesting sound effects and musical qualities. Describe these sound effects and qualities and explain how they enriched the poem.

- Planning your answer

First line: Name the poem and the poet. If possible, do this in such a way that it reflects the wording of the question.

‘A poem I have studied which has interesting sound effects or musical qualities is ‘The Lake Isle of Innisfree’ by William Butler Yeats.

Alliteration

- Alliteration: 'lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore'.
- These soft 'l' and 's' sounds add to the peaceful, calm, reflective, soothing mood...

Assonance

- (Repeated vowel sounds)
- Example: Repeated 'o' and 'a' sounds in 'And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow'.
- Effect: Slows down the pace of the line
- Is in keeping with the overall mood / tone of the poem

Repetition of certain words

- Example: 'peace' and 'dropping'
- Effect: Repeated 'p' sounds in these words mimic the sound that a drop of water might make as it falls from a leaf, for example, or plops into the lake water!
- The word 'dropping' is onomatopoeic
- Helps to engage us as readers and make us feel as if we were there...

Broad vowel sounds

- Example: 'bee-loud glade'
- Effect: Slows down the poem and makes it almost impossible to read these words quickly (if reading aloud)
- This gives the poem a meditative, relaxed feel.

Rhyme and Rhythm

- The poem has a steady rhythm and regular rhyme
- Effect of this is soothing
- Predictable, but this is in keeping with a poem which aims to relax the reader rather than challenge them with disunity or lack of harmony...
- Sets up expectations of calm...