

BBC Teach: Writing and Performance Poetry Live Lesson – Imaginative Imagery

You can improve your poetry immeasurably by using some imagery to bring your thoughts and ideas to life.

In the poetry live lesson, the writers talked about similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia and alliteration and we're going to review them here.

Identifying Imagery

First, let's have a go at identifying imagery. Underline the simile, metaphor, onomatopoeia and alliteration (and anything else you may spot) in the short poem. There may be more than one of each.

Change Happens

Time is a sprinter.

If you don't watch your days, seasons slip silently away.

We bow down our heads to the magic of the screen,

But the world still spins like a strictly come dancer

And change sings its song, like it has done for eons,

Ticking and hissing along.

If you don't look up -

you'll miss it.

Think about why the poet used the imagery – what does it make the reader think about?

Using Imagery

- a. Choose whether to use a simile, metaphor, alliteration or onomatopoeia to describe each of the following:
 1. Your best friend's laugh.
 2. The noise when you eat crisps.
 3. The feeling when you get a text from someone you like.
 4. The voice of your most irritating teacher. (No names!)
 5. Your worst fear.
- a. Now think about the theme of change that you explored in the Poetry Live lesson – write down anything you associate with change, anything at all.
- b. Review what you've written and see if you can create any similes, metaphors, alliteration or onomatopoeia with your ideas.
- c. Shape your imagery into a poem – add words or take them away to make the perfect verse.

Definitions:

Simile: Imagery which describes something by using 'like' or 'as' to compare it to something else. Such as: 'The boy's legs were like two pieces of string with a knot in the middle.'

Metaphor: Imagery which describes something by saying it is something else. Such as: 'his face was a beetroot.'

Onomatopoeia: When the word sounds like the thing it is describing, such as: crash, sizzle, crunch.

Alliteration: The first letter of a word repeated either in sequence or throughout a sentence.