

# Poetry Patterns with Zara the Zebra

*Learning objective: To identify and use poetic devices, including rhyme, rhythm, and personification, to describe the natural world.*

Read the poem below carefully. Use your knowledge of poetic techniques to answer the questions. Make sure to use evidence from the text to support your answers.

The silver stream sings a song to the stone,  
Running through meadows where wild seeds are sown.  
Above, the great oak tree stretches its arms,  
Protecting the forest from loud, city alarms.

The wind whispers secrets to leaves turning gold,  
A story of autumn, both brave and quite bold.  
Zara the zebra stands still in the light,  
Watching the shadows dance into the night.

*Word bank: personification · rhyme scheme · alliteration · stanza · imagery · rhythm*

**1. Identify one example of personification in the first stanza. Explain how the object is being given human qualities. (2 marks)**

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**2. Look at the first stanza. What is the rhyme scheme used by the author? (e.g., AABB or ABAB) (1 mark)**

**3. Find an example of alliteration in the second stanza. Why might an author choose to use this technique? (2 marks)**

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**4. How does the poet describe the wind in the second stanza? What mood does this create for the reader? (2 marks)**

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5. If you were to add a third stanza to this poem, what other natural feature could you describe using personification? (2 marks)

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**Draw:** Draw a picture of the 'silver stream' and the 'oak tree' as described in the first stanza. Include the shadows mentioned in the final line.



*Extension challenge: Write your own four-line stanza about a different animal or plant, ensuring you include at least one example of alliteration and one rhyme.*