

Poetry in the Wild: A Lesson with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To identify and explain the use of similes, metaphors, and rhyming patterns in poetry.

Read the poem written by Leo the Lion below. Think about the descriptive language he uses to paint a picture in your mind, then answer the questions that follow.

The Golden Savannah

The sun is a golden coin in the sky,
Watching the dusty plains drift by.
The grass ripples like a green, wavy sea,
Dancing in whispers, wild and free.

My mane is a crown of tangled light,
Burning with amber, bold and bright.
I prowl through the shadows, soft as a breeze,
Listening to secrets told by the trees.

Word bank: Simile · Metaphor · Rhythm · Stanza · Alliteration

1. In the first stanza, Leo uses a simile to describe the grass. Write down the line that contains this simile. (1 mark)

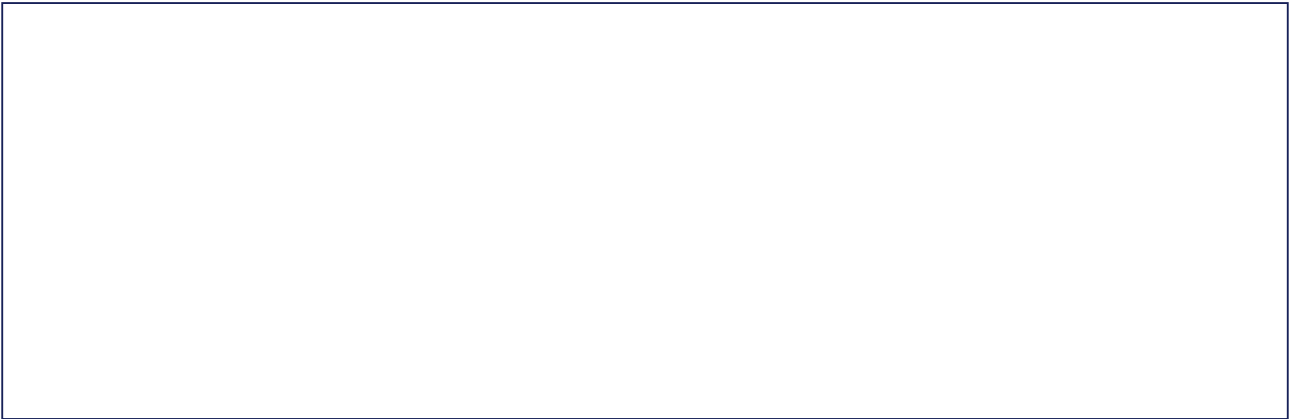
2. What metaphor does Leo use to describe the sun in the first line of the poem? Why do you think he chose this comparison? (2 marks)

3. Find an example of alliteration in the second stanza. Explain why poets use alliteration. (2 marks)

4. Look at the rhyme scheme of the poem. Which words rhyme with 'sky' and 'light'? (2 marks)

5. Leo says, 'I prowl through the shadows, soft as a breeze.' What does this tell you about how the lion is moving? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the savannah as described in Leo's poem. Try to include the 'golden coin' sun, the 'wavy sea' of grass, and Leo with his 'crown' of a mane.



Extension challenge: Write your own four-line stanza (a quatrain) about a different animal. Try to include one simile and ensure your last two lines rhyme.