

# POEM

## POETIC DEVICES - A GLANCE

1. Life	2. The Grumble Family
3. I am Every Woman	4. The Ant and the Cricket
5. The Secret of the Machines	6. No Men Are Foreign
7. The House on Elm Street	

1. **Simile** : It is a **comparison** made between two objects of different kinds which have some resemblance/similarities. It is introduced by a word of comparison, such as, '**like**', '**as**'.  
 இரு வேறுபட்ட பொருட்களையோ, விஷயங்களையோ '**like**' அல்லது '**as**' போன்ற வார்த்தைகளில் ஒன்றை பயன்படுத்தி, நேரடியாக, ஒப்பிட்டுச் சொல்வதாகும்.  
 (e.g.) "Remember they have eyes **like** ours that wake" (Poem 6)  
 "Beneath all uniforms, a single body breaths,  
**Like** ours:....." (Poem 6)
2. **Metaphor** : A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable. (or)  
 It is a figure of speech that makes an implicit, **implied**, or **hidden comparison** between two things that are unrelated, but which share some common characteristics.  
 இதுவும் இரு வேறுபட்ட விஷயங்களை ஒப்பிடுவது தான். ஆனால், நேரடியாக இல்லாமல் மறைமுகமாக ஒப்பிடு செய்வதாகும். ஆகவே இதில், '**like**' '**as**' ஆகிய வார்த்தைகள் வராது.  
 (e.g.) "She's a lioness; don't mess with her". (Poem 3)  
**She is a lioness – metaphor.** A woman is compared to a ferocious lioness.  
 "Our hells of fire and dust outrage the innocence" (Poem 6)  
**hells of fire – metaphor.** Hells are compared to fire
3. **Alliteration** : It is the **repetition** of the same **consonant sound** in successive or nearby words. Note that in alliteration **the sounds** go together.  
 ஒரே வரியிலுள்ள பல வார்த்தைகளின் முதல் எழுத்து ஒரே மெய்யொலியாக திரும்பத்திரும்ப ஒலித்து வருதல்.  
 (e.g.) "And then, be our station high or humble," (Poem 2)  
 In this line, "**h**" is repeated ("high, humble" are alliterated words.).  
 "The summer of life she's ready to see in spring." (Poem 3)  
 In this line, "**s**" is repeated (summer - see- spring).  
 "We can print and plough and weave and heat and light" (Poem 5)  
 In this line, "**p**" is repeated (print - plough) and also "**w**" is repeated (we - weave).
4. **Personification** : Personification is a figure of speech in which a thing – an idea or an animal – is given human attributes.  
 விலங்கு, பறவை போன்ற உயிருள்ள பொருட்களுக்கும், மரம், செடி போன்ற தாவரங்களுக்கும், நிலம், நீர், வீடு போன்ற உயிரற்றவைகளுக்கும், மற்றும் மனிதப் பண்பு இல்லாத எந்த விஷயத்திற்கும், மனிதப் பண்புகளைக் கொடுத்துச் சொல்வது.  
 (e.g.) "We can pull and haul and push and lift and drive" (Poem 5)
5. **Anaphora** : An anaphora is a technique where several phrases (or verses in a poem) begin with the same word or words.  
 அடுத்தடுத்த வரிகளின் ஆரம்பத்தில் ஒரே வார்த்தை திரும்பத் திரும்ப வருவது.  
 (e.g.) "**They growl** at the rain and **they growl** at the sun;" (Poem 2)

6. **Repetition** : Poets often repeat single words or phrases, lines, and sometimes, even whole stanzas at intervals to create a musical effect; to emphasize a point; to draw the readers' attention or to lend unity to a piece.  
சொல்லவரும் கருத்துக்கு முக்கியத்துவம் கொடுக்கும் வகையில் ஒரே வரியில், ஒரே சொல் திரும்பத் திரும்ப வருவது.  
(e.g.) *"Remember, no men are foreign, and no countries strange"*  
*"Remember, no men are strange, no countries foreign"*  
The last line and the first line of **Poem 6**  
The last line though reversed, is the same as the first line. This is to emphasize the serious message, the poem has to convey.  
The poet (James Kirkup) repeats the word **'Remember'** five times in the poem.  
This repetition emphasizes the core message of the oneness of mankind.
7. **Epithet** : An epithet is an adjective or phrase expressing a quality or attribute regarded as characteristic of the person or the thing mentioned.  
ஒரு நபரின் அல்லது ஒரு object-ன் சிறப்புத் தன்மையை வெளிப்படுத்தும் விதமாக சொல்லப்படுகிற வார்த்தை (adjective).  
(e.g.) *"They live, it is said, on Complaining Street"* (Poem 2)  
**complaining street – epithet.**
8. **Transferred Epithet** : A transferred epithet is a figure of speech where an adjective or epithet describing a noun is transferred from the noun it is meant to describe to another noun in the sentence.  
ஒரு வரியிலுள்ள ஒரு குறிப்பிட்ட noun (பெயர்ச்சொல்)ஐ விவரிப்பதற்கு மாறாக வேறொரு noun-க்கு விளக்கம் தரும் வகையில் ஒரு adjective அமைத்தல்.  
(e.g.) *"They, too, aware of sun and air and water,  
Are fed by peaceful harvests, by war's long winter starv'd."* (Poem 6)  
In this line, "sun, air and water" are fed by peaceful harvests, by war's long winter starv'd. "starv'd" is an epithet which is placed beside the noun 'winter'. However, it does not describe the 'winter' as being starved, but describes the pronoun 'they'. Historically many wars were fought during the winter, while the harvest season was essentially peaceful. 'They' refers to the soldiers in uniform who had to starve during winter while fighting for their land.  
**Winter starv'd – transferred epithet.**
9. **Imagery** : The descriptions create a picture in the reader's mind.  
பார்த்தல், கேட்டல், தொடுதல், சுவைத்தல், நுகர்தல் ஆகிய ஐந்து உணர்வுகளில் ஏதோ ஓர் உணர்வை ஈர்க்கும் வகையில், பொருட்கள், செயல்கள், எண்ணங்களை வார்த்தையால் குறிப்பிடுவது.  
(e.g.) *We can see and hear and count and read and write!* (Poem 5)  
The example explains to us the many tasks that could be completed by the machine.
10. **Hyperbole** : A figure of speech using **exaggeration**.  
நம்ப முடியாத, நடக்க இயலாத ஒரு செயலை, இலக்கிய நடையில், மிகைப்படுத்திச் சொல்வது.  
(e.g.) *We are greater than the Peoples and the Kings.*  
*'We will serve you four and twenty hours a day?'* (Poem 5)
11. **Assonance** : Repetition of two or more **vowel sounds**  
ஒரே வரியில் உயிரெழுத்து ஒலி, வார்த்தையின் நடுவே, திரும்பத் திரும்ப வருதல்.  
(e.g.) *all we ask* (Poem 5)
12. **Connotation** : Suggests beyond what it expresses.  
ஒரு சொல், அதன் நேரடியான அர்த்தத்தை விட கூடுதலாக வேறொரு அர்த்தத்தை பரிசீலிக்கச் செய்யும் வகையில் அமைத்தல்.  
(e.g.) *Though our smoke may hide the Heavens from your eyes,* (Poem 5)

13. Synecdoche : A figure of speech in which a part is made to represent the whole or vice versa.  
ஒரு வரியிலுள்ள ஒரு பகுதி மட்டுமே, முழுமையான அர்த்தத்தைக் குறிப்பது.  
(e.g.) "The Western wave was all a-flame."  
The "Western wave" is a synecdoche as it refers to the sea by the name of one of its parts  
i.e. wave.  
"Inside it has a ton of space" (Poem 7)
14. Paradox : A figure of speech in which a statement appears to contradict itself.  
ஒரு வரியில் முரண்பாடான வார்த்தைகளை கொண்டிருத்தல்.  
(e.g.) To bring peace we must war.  
Be cruel to be kind.  
"It just sits there, never getting small or ever growing tall"  
getting small, growing tall :- contradict one another. (Poem 7)
15. Onomatopoeia : A figure of speech wherein the word imitates the sound associated with the object it refers to.  
குறிப்பிடப்பட்ட ஒரு சொல்லின் உச்சரிப்பும், அதன் அர்த்தமும் ஏறக்குறைய ஒரே மாதிரி வருதல்.  
(e.g.) Pitter patter, pitter patter Raindrops on my pane.  
"Lights flicker on and off" (Poem 7)
16. Rhetorical Questions : A figure of speech in the form of a question that is asked to make a point rather than to elicit an answer.  
ஒரு பதிலை வெளிக் கொண்டு வருவது என்பதைக் காட்டிலும், ஒரு முக்கிய விஷயத்தை வெளிப்படுத்துவதற்காக ஒரு வினாவை எழுப்புவது.  
(e.g.) And what is so rare as a day in June?  
"How could this be?" (Poem 7)  
"What happened inside that house?" (Poem 7)
17. Rhyming Words : It is making the last words in the lines produce the same sound.  
ஒவ்வொரு வரியின் கடைசி வார்த்தை, அல்லது சில வரிகளின் கடைசி வார்த்தைகளில் ஒரே மாதிரியான ஒலி வரும்படியான வார்த்தைகளை தேர்ந்தெடுத்து வகைப்படுத்துதல்.  
(e.g.) So let the way wind up the hill or down,  
O'er rough or smooth, the journey will be joy:  
Still seeking what I sought when but a boy,  
New friendship, high adventure, and a crown  
The rhyming words are down - crown and joy - boy. (Poem 1)
18. Rhyme scheme : Rhyme scheme is a poet's deliberate pattern of lines that rhyme with other lines in a poem or a stanza.  
The rhyme scheme, or pattern, can be identified by giving end words that rhyme.  
பாடலின் ஒவ்வொரு வரியின் கடைசி வார்த்தையின் ஒலியை வைத்து, ஒரே மாதிரி ஒலி வரும் வார்த்தைகளைப் பிரித்து, அவற்றைக் குறியீட்டு எழுதுதல்.  
(e.g.) Look at the four lines  
So let the way wind up the hill or down, a  
O'er rough or smooth, the journey will be joy: b  
Still seeking what I sought when but a boy, b  
New friendship, high adventure, and a crown a  
It has clear rhyming words with a,b,b,a.  
So the rhyming scheme is a,b,b,a. (Poem 1)
19. Couplet : A couplet is a literary device that can be defined as having two successive rhyming lines in a verse.  
ஒரு பாடலில் அடுத்தடுத்த வரிகளில் ஒரே மாதிரியான rhyming வார்த்தைகள் வருமாறு அமைத்தல்.  
(e.g.) "With forward face and unreluctant soul;  
Not hurrying to, not turning from the goal". (Poem 1)

## UNIT - 1

## POEM

## Life

- Henry Van Dyke

## Public Exam Frequently Asked Questions

Read the following lines from the poem and answer the questions that follow.

1. *Let me but live my life from year to year,  
With forward face and unreluctant soul;  
Not hurrying to, nor turning from the goal;  
Not mourning for the things that disappear*
  - (a) **Whom does the word 'me' refer to?** (PTA-2, 4 & 5; HY-'19, May & Aug-'22)  
**Ans :** The word 'me' refers to the poet, Henry Van Dyke.
  - (b) **What kind of life does the poet want to lead?** (PTA-2, 4 & 5; HY-'19, May & Aug-'22)  
**Ans :** The poet wants to lead a joyful life.
  - (c) **Identify the rhyme scheme of the given lines.** (Aug-'22)  
**Ans :** The rhyming scheme : a b b a.
  - (d) **Why do you think the poet is not in a hurry?** (Sep-'21; Aug-'22)  
**Ans :** The poet wants to move towards his goal without **hurrying** or turning away from it.
  - (e) **What should one not mourn for?** (Sep-'21; Aug-'22)  
**Ans :** One must not **mourn** for the things lost in the past.
2. *In the dim past, nor holding back in fear  
From what the future veils; but with a whole  
And happy heart, that pays its toll  
To Youth and Age, and travels on with cheer.* (Sep-'21)
  - (a) **What does the poet mean by the phrase 'in the dim past'?** (PTA-6; QY-'19, FRT-'22)  
**Ans :** 'In the dim past' means the sad days of the past.
  - (b) **Is the poet afraid of future?** (PTA-6; QY-'19, FRT-'22)  
**Ans :** No, the poet is not **afraid** of future.
  - (c) **Pick out the rhyming words from the above lines. (2)** (PTA-4)  
**Ans :** Rhyming words : fear-cheer; whole-toll.
  - (d) **Write the rhyme scheme of the poem. (1)** (PTA-4)  
**Ans :** Rhyme scheme : a b b a.
  - (e) **Identify the figure of speech employed in the first line of the given stanza. (1)** (PTA-4)  
**Ans :** The figure of speech in the 1st line : Metaphor. (implied comparison: "dim past" is compared to "sad days of the past")
  - (f) **Pick out the alliterating words. (1)** (PTA-4)  
**Ans :** Alliterating words in the 2<sup>nd</sup> line : from - future; what - with.  
Alliterating words in the 3<sup>rd</sup> line : happy - hearth;  
Alliterating words in the last line : to - travels.

3. *So let the way wind up the hill or down,  
O'er rough or smooth, the journey will be joy:  
Still seeking what I sought when but a boy,  
New friendship, high adventure, and a crown*

(a) **How is the way of life?** (FRT-'22)

**Ans :** The way of life could go up the hill or down, rough or smooth.

(b) **How should be the journey of life?** (FRT-'22)

**Ans :** The **journey of life** should be joyful.

(c) **What did the poet seek as a boy?** (FRT-'22)

**Ans :** As a boy, the poet sought **new friendship, high adventure** and a **crown of success**.

(d) **Pick out the rhyming words from the above lines. (2)** (PTA-5; FRT-'22)

**Ans :** Rhyming words : down-crown; joy-boy.

(e) **Write the rhyme scheme of the poem. (1)** (PTA-5; FRT-'22)

**Ans :** Rhyme scheme : a b b a.

(f) **Identify the figure of speech employed in the second line of the given stanza. (1)** (PTA-5; FRT-'22)

**Ans :** The figure of speech in the 2<sup>nd</sup> line : **Antithesis**. (Two opposite concepts are put together in a line to achieve a contrasting effect : "rough or smooth".)

(g) **Pick out the alliterating words.. (1)** (PTA-5)

**Ans :** Alliterating words in the 1<sup>st</sup> line : way - wind.

Alliterating words in the 2<sup>nd</sup> line : journey - joy;

Alliterating words in the 3<sup>rd</sup> line : still - seeking - sought; what - when; but - boy.

(h) **What is the meaning of the word 'crown'?** (FRT-'22)

**Ans :** 'Crown' mean a prize or position.

(i) **Pick out the alliterating words in the third line.** (FRT-'22)

**Ans :** Alliterating words in the 3<sup>rd</sup> line : Still-Seeking-Sought, When-What..

4. *My heart will keep the courage of the quest,  
And hope the road's last turn will be the best.*

(a) **What kind of quest does the poet seek here?** (Sep.'20; FRT-'22)

**Ans :** The poet seeks courage to acquire his desires.

(b) **What is the poet's hope?** (Sep-'20; FRT-'22)

**Ans :** The poet **hopes** for a beautiful life with a clear sense of purpose.

5. Paraphrase the following stanza.

*Still seeking what I sought when but a boy,  
New friendship, high adventure, and a crown,  
My heart will keep the courage of the quest,  
And hope the road's last turn will be the best.*

**Ans :** He is trying to find what he was searching for when he was a boy - his new adventures, his hopes, his new friendship and his new experiences which enrich him.

Life is described not as an entity but as an experience. One should live with courage, dedication and a clear sense of purpose that drives the mind and soul. He expects the best of life.

### Paragraph Questions

Answer the following question in about 80 - 100 words.

1. Describe the journey of life as depicted in the poem by Henry Van Dyke. (QY-'19, FRT & May-'22)

(OR)

What are the main concepts and ideas in the poem 'Life'? (May-'22)

**Ans :** In this poem, life is described not as an entity, but as an experience. One should live with courage and **dedication**. Life should be lived without hurry and with a clear sense of purpose that drives the mind and soul. The poet **encourages** us to let go of all that has been lost in the past as well as the **uncertainty** the future holds. He tells us to embrace the present with the happiness which **nourishes** the **young and the old**. Happiness gives us nourishment on this journey with a smile on our face. Whatever situation life throws at us, it is the journey, he hopes, that should be joyous, for it teaches us to grow and live. Our **imagination** should have the innocence and fearlessness of childhood. We should seek out new friendships, new **adventures** and new experiences which enrich us. He encourages us to have faith and **determination** in our hearts, as we take on this beautiful journey. We should have eternal hope that our story ends joyfully.

2. What is the message of the poem "Life"? (or) What does the poet narrate to us in this poem? (or) How does the poet Henry Van Dyke lead his life? (FRT-'22)

(or)

What are the main concepts and ideas in the poem 'Life'?

**Ans :** Henry Van Dyke was a visionary American author. His poem "Life" describes life taking on life in its truest form, an adventure. The poet wants to live his life looking ahead, willing to do something. He neither wants to hurry nor move away from his goal. He does not want to mourn the things he has lost, not hold back for fear of the future. He instead prefers to live his life with a whole and happy heart which cheerfully travels from youth to old age. Therefore, it does not matter to him whether the path goes up or down the hill, rough or smooth, the journey, he hopes, will be joyful. He will continue to seek what he wanted as a boy - new friendship, high adventure and a crown (prize). His heart will remain courageous and pursue his desires. He hopes that every turn in his life's journey will be the best.

