

POEM

FIGURES OF SPEECH - A GLANCE

1. The Castle	2. Our Casuarina Tree
3. All the World's a Stage	4. Ulysses
5. A Father to his Son	6. Incident of the French Camp

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, so, as, as ... so'.

இரு வேறுபட்ட பொருட்களையோ, விஷயங்களையோ **'like'** அல்லது **'as'** போன்ற வார்த்தைகளில் ஒன்றை பயன்படுத்தி, நேரடியாக, ஒப்பிட்டுச் சொல்வதாகும்.

(e.g.) "Grew thin and treacherous **as** air" (Poem 1)

The path grew weak and unpredictable **as** air.

"And shining morning face, creeping **like** snail" (Poem 3)

The schoolboy's movement is compared to snail's movement. **Direct** comparison, using the word, **'like'**.

"To follow knowledge **like** a sinking star". (Poem 4)

The pursuit of knowledge is **directly** compared to a sinking star using the word, **'like'**.

2. **Metaphor** : 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 ஒப்பீடு செய்வதாகும். ஆகவே இதில், **'like' 'as'** ஆகிய வார்த்தைகள் வராது.

(e.g.) "Oh then our maze of tunneled stone". (Poem 1)

The tunneled stone is compared to maze. It is an **implied** comparison, without using the words "like" or "as", or "so".

"For always roaming with a hungry heart" (Poem 4)

Ulysses compares himself to a predatory animal. It is an **implied** comparison, without using the words "like" or "as", or "so".

3. **Alliteration** : It is the repetition of the same **consonant** sound in successive or nearby words. Note that in alliteration the sound and sense go together.

ஒரே வரியிலுள்ள பல வார்த்தைகளின் முதல் எழுத்து ஒரே மெய்யொலியாக திரும்பத்திரும்ப ஒலித்து வருதல்.

(e.g.) "There lies the port the vessel puffs her sail" (Poem 4)

In this line, "**p**" is repeated ("port, puffs" are alliterated words.).

"Let once my army- leader Lannes" (Poem 6)

In this line, "**L**" is repeated (Let- Leader- Lannes).

"Waver at yonder wall" (Poem 6)

In this line, "**w**" is repeated (waver- wall).

4. **Repetition** : It is a literary device that repeats the same words or phrases a few times to make an idea clearer and more memorable.

சொல்லவரும் கருத்துக்கு முக்கியத்துவம் கொடுக்கும் வகையில் ஒரே வரியில், ஒரே சொல் திரும்பத் திரும்ப வருவது.

(e.g.) *“Tell him to be alone often and get at himself
and above all tell himself no lies about himself”* (Poem 5)

5. **Anaphora** : Repetition of a certain word or phrase at the beginning of successive lines, or repetition of a **word** or a **phrase** at the **beginning** of a sequence of sentences, paragraphs.

அடுத்தடுத்த வரிகளின் ஆரம்பத்தில் ஒரே வார்த்தை திரும்பத் திரும்ப வருவது.

(e.g.) *“Tell him time as a stuff can be wasted.*

Tell him to be a fool every so often” (Poem 5)

‘Tell him’ is the Anaphora used here, as it is the repetition of words at the beginning of successive lines to create a sonic effect.

6. **Personification** : An inanimate object or abstraction is given human qualities or abilities. (i.e.) Giving human qualities to non-living things.

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.) *“There was a little private gate
A little wicked wicket gate”* (Poem 1)

The small door or gate is personified as an evil one.

7. **Antithesis** : It is a literary device that emphasises the idea of contrast.

(e.g.) *“The growth of a frail flower in a path up
has sometimes shattered and split a rock”* (Poem 5)

“Brutes have been gentled where lashes failed” (Poem 5)

8. **Transferred Epithet** : It is a figure of speech in which an epithet grammatically qualifies a noun other than the person or a thing, it is actually meant to describe.

ஒரு வரியிலுள்ள ஒரு குறிப்பிட்ட noun (பெயர்ச்சொல்)ஐ விவரிப்பதற்கு மாறாக வேறொரு noun-க்கு விளக்கம் தரும் வகையில் ஒரு adjective அமைத்தல்.

(e.g.) *“and left them **dead years** before burial:”* (Poem 5)

*“Let him have **lazy days** seeking his deeper motives”* (Poem 5)

Days are not lazy, but his son should be lazy enough to seek his in born abilities.

*“Bringing changes into a **world resenting** change”* (Poem 5)

The people in the world are referred here to dislike the change.

9. **Allegory** : An allegory is a complete narrative that involves characters and events that stand for an abstract idea or event. In other words, a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.

(e.g.) ‘The Castle’ an allegorical poem.

10. Zoomorphism : It is the shaping of something in animal form or terms. This is used to illustrate movement, making the tree seem more actively alive and also implying movement. This is a subtle indication of the process of life.

(e.g.) "LIKE a huge Python, winding round and round

The rugged trunk, indented deep with scars", (Poem-2)

The vine is described in animal terms (as a python).

(Since the vine is compared with a python, using the word "like", we can tell the figure of speech applied in the first line as **Simile** also.)

11. Rhyming : 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.

All through that summer at ease we lay,

And daily from the turret wall

We watched the mowers in the hay

And the enemy half a mile away

They seemed no threat to us at all.

The rhyming words are lay - hay - away and wall - all. (Poem 1)

12. Rhyme scheme : Describing the order of rhyming words at the end of lines of a poem or verse.

பாடலின் ஒவ்வொரு வரியின் கடைசி வார்த்தையின் ஒலியை வைத்து, ஒரே மாதிரி ஒலி வரும் வார்த்தைகளைப் பிரித்து, அவற்றைக் குறியீடு செய்து எழுதுதல்.

Look at the four lines

Unknown, yet well-known to the eye of faith! a

Ah, I have heard that wail far, far away b

In distant lands, by many a sheltered bay, b

When slumbered in his cave the water-wraith a

Rhyme scheme of the given stanza is - **a b b a**. (Poem-2)



POEM UNIT 1

THE CASTLE

- Edwin Muir

PUBLIC EXAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Read the poem and answer the following in a short paragraph of 8-10 sentences each.

- a. Human greed led to the mighty fall of the citadel. Explain. (PTA-2 & 6; March 2020)
(OR)
Describe how the castle was seized and captured. (QY-'19)
(OR)
Bring out the message of the poem "THE CASTLE". (HY-'19)
(OR)
Describe the capture of the Castle. (PTA-5)

The poem 'The Castle' by Edwin Muir tells the story of an unspecified battle. Though the castle had strong towers, high and thick walls, it was captured by the enemies by the greediness of an old guard of the castle. He gets bribed by the enemies and let them in through a little private gate, where no one could enter by any wicked tricks. They entered the castle through the intricating path of the castle and captured the citadel for gold. The narrator lamented over the disloyalty of the guard and he was feeling ashamed to tell anyone about this shameful act of the guard. He regretted for not finding any weapon to fight with the enemy called gold. Thus 'Human greed led to the mighty fall of the citadel'.

Read the given lines and answer the questions that follow in a line or two.

- a. *All through the summer at ease we lay,
And daily from the turret wall
We watched the mowers in the hay*
- (i) Who does 'we' refer to? (PTA-2 & 4; HY-'19; Sep. 2020)
'We' refers to the soldiers.
- (ii) How did the soldiers spend the summer days? (PTA-2 & 4; HY-'19)
The soldiers spent the summer days totally stress-free and relaxed.
- (iii) What work do the mowers do? (Sep. 2020)
The mowers will trim the grass and level the lawns.
- b. *Our gates were strong, our walls were thick
So smooth and high, no man could win.*
- (i) How safe was the castle? (Govt. MQP; PTA-1 & 3; March 2020)
The castle's gates were strong and the walls were thick.
- (ii) What was the firm belief of the soldiers? (Govt. MQP; PTA-1 & 3; March 2020)
The firm belief of the soldiers was that no one could win them.

- (iii) **What 'gates' are talked of here?** (QY-'19)
The castle's gates are talked of here.
- (iv) **Explain 'no man could win'.** (QY-'19)
The soldiers firmly believed that no one could enter into the strong and well-protected castle.
- c. *We could do nothing, being sold.*
- (i) **Why couldn't they do anything?** (PTA-5; QY-'19)
They couldn't do anything because it was an **unspecified** battle.
- (ii) **Why did they feel helpless?** (PTA-5; QY-'19)
They felt helpless as they had a **traitor** among them inside the castle.
- d. *'There was a little private gate
A little wicked wicket gate
The wizened warder let them through'.*
- (i) **What do you mean by a 'wicked wicket gate'?** (PTA-6)
A wicked wicket gate is an evil small door or gate.
- (ii) **What is the figure of speech used in the second line?** (PTA-6)
There are two figures of speech used here.
(i) Personification : The small door or gate is personified as an evil one.
(ii) Alliteration : wicket - wicked

Explain the following with reference to the context in about 20-30 words each.

- a. *They seemed no threat to us at all.* (Govt. MQP; PTA-3)
Reference : This line is taken from the poem 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.
Context : The narrator talks about the confidence of the soldiers.
Explanation : As the castle was strong and there was no trace of the enemies found at a distance of half - a mile. So it seemed that there was no threat at all.
- b. *I will maintain until my death.* (PTA-2)
Reference : This line is taken from the poem 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.
Context : The narrator lamented over the disloyalty of the greedy warder.
Explanation : The wicked old guard of the castle got gold as a bribe and allowed the enemies into the castle through a little wicket gate. As it was a shameful act of betrayal the narrator decided to say they could do nothing as they were sold for some gold.
- c. *"The wizened warder let them through".* (PTA-1)
Reference : This line is taken from the poem 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.
Context : The narrator revealed that the enemies were let in the castle by an old guard.
Explanation : The wicked old guard of the castle got gold as a bribe and allowed the enemies into the castle through a little wicket gate.
- d. *'Only a bird could have got in'.* (QY-'19)
Reference : This line is taken from the poem 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.
Context : The narrator revealed that the castle was so strong that no one could capture it and only a bird could have got in.
Explanation : The castle had no strong foothold for climbers. Only if they could fly they could enter the castle. This was challenging in the castle.

