

## Literary Special Effects

(aka Literary Techniques)

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### Onomatopoeia

Out of the whinnying green stable

On to the fields of praise.

— *Fern Hill*, Dylan Thomas

Pronounced: on-o-mat-o-PEE-a

Onomatopoeia = Words that imitate sounds or sounds that are linked with objects. In short, literary sound effects.

from Greek = name-making

Another Literary Special Effect that makes long car trips, train trips, and airplane trips much more enjoyable !

Examples:

Cats *mew*.

Dogs *yelp*.

Cows *moo*.

Campfires *crackle* and *roar*.

More onomatopoeia examples:

splash, knock, roar, whinnying, bong, hiss, buzz, pow, bang, cluck, thump, pop, splashy, wow, kerplunk, gush, tinkle, smash, growl, crunch, click, sizzle, clattered, clanged, rattle, baa, babble, clip, whinny, clunk, ring, swish, swoosh, clank, whine, wheeze, wheezy, clop, squish, zip, woof, slurp, clap, tick tock, drip, scratch, clippety-clop, cock-a-doodle-do, flip-flop, fizz, cuckoo, ding dong, boom, beep, rip, boo-hoo, choo-choo, bow-wow, argh, ouch, belch, blab, blare, bleat, thud, screech, bark, abuzz, bleep, bray, crack, creak, croak, crow, murmur, pit-pat, sob, spatter, splutter, squeak, varoom, clickety clack, yippity yap

Flashcards

Cut on solid lines, fold on dotted lines.

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<h2>Onomatopoeia</h2> <p>© Beverly Schmitt, All rights reserved</p>	<p>Pronounced: on-o-mat-o-PEE-a</p> <p>Words that imitate sounds or sounds that are linked with objects. In short, literary sound effects. (from Greek = name-making)</p> <p>e.g., hiss, fizz, boom, buzz, pop, bang, pow, kerplunk, tinkle, crunch, sizzle, baa, creak, bang, whist, swoosh, ding dong</p>
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## Onomatopoeia

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Quick ... without thinking ... what is the sound alarm clocks make?

Activities —

Matching ...

Match the items below to the sound they make.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Sound</u>
turkeys	bleep
soda pop	burr
morning bathroom sound	cackle
hens	chugg
machinery	fizzle
robot	garble
water coming out of a jug	gobble

### **Wow**

Try some more matching ...

<u>Item</u>	<u>Sound</u>
tuba	honk
keys	hoot
horses	jingle
owls	jangle
bells	mumble
frustrated children	neigh
car	oompah

### **Sizzling**

Try some more matching ...

<u>Item</u>	<u>Sound</u>
banjo string	ping
boat	plunk
many feet	scrunch
rubber band being shot	snort
dropping change in a jar	tramp
pigs	twang
footsteps on gravel	toot

### **Flash**

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Try some more matching ...

<u>Item</u>	<u>Sound</u>
race car	wham
bee flying by your ear	whir
jumping in water	whoosh
helicopter	yip
slamming a door	zap
small dog barking	zing
lightening strike	zoom

### **Slurp**

1) Look through a newspapers' comic section or old comic books (like Batman) and identify examples of onomatopoeia.

### **Pop**

2) Many times children's story books will have examples of onomatopoeia. Try to locate one or two books and give onomatopoeia examples.

### **Zoom**

3) Pretend you are at any of the places below. What onomatopoeia words can you come up with for each?

- a) Church: sanctuary, nave, minister's office, cloak room, school room, etc.
- b) Places: museum, amusement park, restaurant, neighborhood family park, forest, campground, hospital, grocery store, mall, toy store, candy factory, etc.
- c) Home: front room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, homeschooling / homework room, hallway, basement/attic, front yard, back yard, etc.

4) What word sounds do the following make?

hammer	horn	cars	farm animals	swimmers
zoo animals	gun	bee	fire	cooking food
thunder	horse's hooves on cobblestone			car engine
drill	lightening	family laughter	paper ripping	
screen door slamming	dancing shoes			

Onomatopoeia

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5) Verbally, and as quickly as you can, make some onomatopoeic sound effect sentences with the following words.

boom	bay	blast	boo	burble	caw	cheep
chirp	clink	coo	crackling	drone	flap	flutter
gong	grunt	hiccup	howl	huff	hum	lisp
moan	mew	moo	peal	peep	plink	plop
puff	purr	quack	scream	shriek	sigh	slop
slush	smack	snap	sniff	squeal	tom-tom	tweet
twitter	hum	wail	whack	whammo	whang	yummy
zip	zoom	splat	bang	pow	whist	swoosh
ding						

6) Give onomatopoeic sound effect examples from nursery rhymes and fairy tales.

Quick ... without thinking ... what is the sound sirens make?

Quick ... without thinking ... what is the sound flags make?

FYI

Onomatopoeia = noun

Onomatopoeic = adjective

Onomatopoeically = adverb

Onomatopoeically = adverb

Quick ... without thinking ... what is the sound trains make?

Literary Examples —

The moan of doves in immemorial elms,  
And murmuring of innumerable bees.  
— *Come Down, O Maid*, Lord Alfred Tennyson

Here are cool mosses deep,  
And through the moss the ivies creep,  
And in the stream the long-leaved flowers weep,  
And from the craggy ledge the poppy hangs in sleep.  
— *Song of the Lotus-Eaters*, Lord Alfred Tennyson

A tap at the pane, the quick sharp scratch  
And blue spurt of a lighted match.  
— *Meeting at Night*, Browning

When Ajax strives some rock's vast weight to throw,  
The line too labors, and the words move slow.  
— *Sound and Sense*, Pope

The Pied Piper Of Hamelin

In to the street the piper stept  
Smiling first a little smile,  
As if he knew what magic stept  
In his quiet pipe the while;  
Then, like a musical adept,  
To blow the pipe his lips he wrinkled,  
And green and blue his sharp eyes twinkled,  
Like a candle-flamed where salt was sprinkled;  
And ere three shrill notes the pipe uttered,  
You heard as if a army muttered;  
The muttering grew to a grumbling;  
And the grumbling grew to mighty rumbling;  
And out of the house the rats came tumbling.  
Great rats, small rats, lean rats, brawny rats,  
Brown rats, black rats, gray rats, tawny rats,  
Grave old plodders, gay young friskers,  
Fathers, mothers, uncles, cousins,  
Cocking tails and pricking whiskers,  
Families by tens and dozens,  
Brothers, sisters, husbands, wives —  
Followed the piper for their lives  
From street to street he piped advancing,  
And step for step they they followed dancing,  
Until they came to river Weser  
Wherein' all plunged and perished!  
— Save one who, stout as Julius Caesar,  
Swam across and lived to carry  
[the manuscript he cherished]  
To the Rat-land home his commentary:  
Which was, "At first shrill notes of the pipe,  
I heard a sound as of scraping tripe,  
And putting apples, wondrous ripe,  
Into a cider press' gripe:  
And a moving away of pickle-tub-boards  
And a leaving ajar of conserve-cupboards,  
And a drawing the corks of train-oil-flasks,  
And the breaking the hoops of butter-casks;  
And it seemed as if a voice  
[Sweeter far than by harp or psaltery Is breathed] called out, "Oh rats, rejoice!"  
The world is grown to one vast drysaltery!  
"So munch on, crunch on, take your luncheon,  
Breakfast, supper, dinner, luncheon!"  
And just as a bulky sugar-puncheon,  
Already staved, like a great sun shone  
Glorious scarce an inch before me,  
Just as methought it said, "Come, bore me!"-  
I found Weaser rolling over me"

— Robert Browning (1812-1889)

Bow-wow, says the dog,  
Mew, mew says the cat,  
Grunt, grunt, goes the hog,  
And squeak goes the rat.  
Tu, whu, says the owl,  
Quack, quack, says the duck,  
And what the cuckoo says you know.  
— Mother Goose

Quick ... without thinking ... what is the sound an angry Viking makes?

Look for examples of onomatopoeia in *The Bells* by Edgar Allan Poe.

*The Bells*  
Edgar Allan Poe

I  
Hear the sledges with the bells —  
Silver bells!  
What a world of merriment their melody fore-  
tells!  
How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,  
In the icy air of night!  
While the stars that over sprinkle  
All the heavens, seem to twinkle  
With a crystalline delight;  
Keeping time, time, time,  
In a sort of Runic rhyme,  
To the tintinnabulation that so musically wells  
From the bells, bells, bells, bells,  
Bells, bells, bells —  
From the jingling and the tinkling of the bells.

II  
Hear the mellow wedding bells,  
Golden bells!  
What a world of happiness their harmony fore-  
tells!  
Through the balmy air of night  
How they ring out their delight!  
From the molten-golden notes,  
And an in tune,  
What a liquid ditty floats  
To the turtle-dove that listens, while she gloats  
On the moon!  
Oh, from out the sounding cells,  
What a gush of euphony voluminously wells!  
How it swells!  
How it dwells  
On the Future! how it tells  
Of the rapture that impels  
To the swinging and the ringing  
Of the bells, bells, bells,  
Of the bells, bells, bells, bells,  
Bells, bells, bells —  
To the rhyming and the chiming of the bells!

III

Hear the loud alarm bells —  
Brazen bells!  
What a tale of terror, now, their turbulency tells!  
In the startled ear of night  
How they scream out their affright!  
Too much horrified to speak,  
They can only shriek, shriek,  
Out of tune,  
In a clamorous appealing to the mercy of the  
fire,  
In a mad expostulation with the deaf and frantic  
fire,  
Leaping higher, higher, higher,  
With a desperate desire,  
And a resolute endeavor,  
Now — now to sit or never,  
By the side of the pale-faced moon.  
Oh, the bells, bells, bells!  
What a tale their terror tells  
Of Despair!  
How they clang, and clash, and roar!  
What a horror they outpour  
On the bosom of the palpitating air!  
Yet the ear it fully knows,  
By the twanging,  
And the clanging,  
How the danger ebbs and flows:  
Yet the ear distinctly tells,  
In the jangling,  
And the wrangling,  
How the danger sinks and swells,  
By the sinking or the swelling in the anger of the  
bells —  
Of the bells —  
Of the bells, bells, bells, bells,  
Bells, bells, bells —  
In the clamor and the clangor of the bells!

IV

Hear the tolling of the bells —  
Iron Bells!  
What a world of solemn thought their monody  
compels!  
In the silence of the night,  
How we shiver with affright  
At the melancholy menace of their tone!  
For every sound that floats  
From the rust within their throats  
Is a groan.  
And the people — ah, the people —  
They that dwell up in the steeple,  
All Alone  
And who, tolling, tolling, tolling,  
In that muffled monotone,  
Feel a glory in so rolling  
On the human heart a stone —  
They are neither man nor woman —  
They are neither brute nor human —  
They are Ghouls:  
And their king it is who tolls;  
And he rolls, rolls, rolls,  
Rolls  
A paeon from the bells!  
And his merry bosom swells  
With the paeon of the bells!  
And he dances, and he yells;  
Keeping time, time, time,  
In a sort of Runic rhyme,  
To the paeon of the bells —  
Of the bells:  
Keeping time, time, time,  
In a sort of Runic rhyme,  
To the throbbing of the bells —  
Of the bells, bells, bells —  
To the sobbing of the bells;  
Keeping time, time, time,  
As he knells, knells, knells,  
In a happy Runic rhyme,  
To the rolling of the bells —  
Of the bells, bells, bells:  
To the tolling of the bells,  
Of the bells, bells, bells, bells —  
Bells, bells, bells —  
To the moaning and the groaning of the bells.