

L.8.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is the use of words that _____ sounds.

Examples: boom, hiss, _____

Onomatopoeia in Prose

In the first example below, a single word imitates an animal. In the second, listen for traffic.

The wolf pups were barking their excited 'yipoo' that rang out the hour at the end of the hunt.

-Jean Craighead George, *Julie of the Wolves*

Stretched out on his cot, he listened sleepily to the diesels blatting by, the cars passing with a rising and falling whoosh.

-Frank Bonham, *Durango Street*

Onomatopoeia in Poetry

In this example, notice how the many b's, d's, and p's in this poem suggest the sound of swiftly moving water.

I chatter over stony ways,
In little sharps and trebles,
I bubble into eddying bays,
I babble on the pebbles.

-Alfred Lord Tennyson, "The Brook"

Practice

A. What sound is suggested by this line? Is it soft or loud?

Over the cobbles he clattered and clashed in the dark inn-yard.

-Alfred Noyes, "The Highwayman"

B. Write a sentence that suggests the sound of the following:

1. radio static
2. water dripping from a faucet
3. bacon frying
4. bees

Circle the onomatopoeia in this poem by Eve Merriam:

The rusty spigot
sputters,
utters
a splutter,
spatters a smattering of drops,
gashes wider;
slash,
splatters,
scatters,
spurts,
finally stops sputtering
and splash!
gushes rushes splashes
clear water dashes.

Eve Merriam