

Figures of Speech in the poem "The Patriot".

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Robert Browning's (1812-89) "The Patriot" (1855) is a dramatic monologue. The poem is full of powerful emotions and vivid imagery. The poem uses several figures of speech to express the speaker's rise and fall, the unstable nature of public admiration, and the hope for divine justice. These literary devices enhance the poem's meaning and appeal to the readers' emotions. Here are key figures of speech used in the poem.

Symbolism: Browning uses symbols to convey deep ideas. "**Roses**" and "**myrtle**" symbolize celebration and honor during the speaker's moment of glory. Later, the "**scaffold**" and "**stones**" symbolize his punishment and disgrace. These symbols show the drastic shift in the speaker's life.

Metaphor: The poet uses metaphors to compare ideas indirectly. For example, "**leaped at the sun**" represents the speaker's ambitious efforts to achieve great things. This metaphor helps readers understand the speaker's sacrifices and his ultimate downfall.

Imagery: The poem is rich in visual and auditory imagery. Phrases like "**roses, roses, all the way**" and "**the air broke into a mist with bells**" create vivid pictures of the speaker's success. Similarly, the "**rope cuts both my wrists behind**" produces a painful image of his punishment. This imagery brings the poem's emotions to life.

Personification: The poet personifies abstract ideas to add depth. For instance, "**the house-roofs seemed to heave and sway**" makes the cheering crowd feel alive and conquered. This personification captures the intensity of the speaker's former glory.

Browning's use of symbolism, metaphor, imagery, and personification enriches "The Patriot". These figures of speech make the poem emotional and meaningful. It helps readers connect with the speaker's journey.