

What figures of speech are used in “The Solitary Reaper”?

Generated: Jan 26, 2026

What figures of speech are used in “The Solitary Reaper”?

William Wordsworth's (1770-1850) “The Solitary Reaper” (1807) is a beautiful poem about a young girl singing in a field. The poet describes her voice and its effect on him. Wordsworth uses many figures of speech to make the poem vivid and emotional. These literary tools bring life to his words and help readers feel the scene.

- **Imagery:** The first figure of speech is imagery. Wordsworth paints clear pictures of the "solitary Highland Lass" working in a field. He describes her song filling the valley, creating a strong image of sound and nature.
- **Simile:** Another figure of speech is simile. The poet compares the girl's voice to the sweetest songs of the nightingale and the cuckoo bird. For example, “No Nightingale did ever chaunt / More welcome notes.” This shows how soothing her voice is.
- **Personification:** Personification is also used. The poet gives human qualities to non-human things, like the "silence of the seas." This makes the description more poetic.
- **Hyperbole:** Wordsworth uses hyperbole, or exaggeration, when he says her song is better than any he has ever heard. He emphasizes how deeply it touched his heart.
- **Alliteration:** Lastly, alliteration is present, like in the line "Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain." Repeating similar sounds makes the poem musical, like the girl's song.

These figures of speech help Wordsworth express the beauty of the scene and the emotional power of the girl's song.