

"Adonais" Literary Device

Writer: Percy Bysshe Shelley | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Apostrophe: Apostrophe means directly talking to someone who is not present or cannot reply. In Adonais, Shelley talks to Keats, who is dead. He also talks to Urania, a goddess. These direct addresses show deep emotion. They help express grief, anger, and love. This device makes the poem more personal and powerful.

Personification: Personification means giving human qualities to non-human things. In the poem, Shelley shows Nature as a living being that cries for Keats. He also calls the wind "sobbing" and Echo "silent" with pain. This makes Nature feel close and alive. It shows how deeply the world shares the poet's sorrow.

Classical Allusion: A classical allusion is a reference to old Greek or Roman stories. Shelley uses the myth of Adonis to compare Keats's early death. He also brings in Urania, Echo, and Narcissus. These references give deep meaning. They connect Keats to beauty, love, and suffering. They also make the poem rich and timeless.