

"Ode to a Nightingale" Literary Devices

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Literary Terms

- **Ode** → The poem is a type of ode, which means it is a serious, thoughtful poem about a deep subject.

Figures of Speech:

- **Imagery:** Descriptive language that appeals to the senses to create vivid pictures in the reader's mind. Example: "Thou wast not born for death, immortal Bird!"
- **Metaphor:** A comparison between two things without using "like" or "as." Example: "Thou wast not born for death, immortal Bird!" Here, the nightingale is a metaphor for eternal beauty and immortality, as it is "not born for death."
- **Personification:** Giving human qualities to non-human things. The nightingale is personified as a bride, suggesting purity and beauty.
- **Hyperbole:** An exaggerated statement or claim. Example: "Thou wast not born for death, immortal Bird!" The nightingale is exaggeratedly described as immortal, as if it cannot die. It represents idealised beauty.

Symbolism/Symbols:

Using objects or images to represent bigger ideas. Examples:

- **The Nightingale:** Symbol of Eternal Beauty and Freedom.
- **Wine/Bacchus:** Symbol of Earthly pleasure and escapism.
- **The Forest (Nature):** Symbol of Escape from Reality.
- **The "Eternal" Song of the Nightingale:** Symbol of Timeless Art and Imagination.
- **Hemlock:** Symbol of death or poison.