

The Force that through the Green Fuse Drives the Flower

Literary Devices

Writer: Dylan Thomas | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

"[The Force that Through the Green Fuse Drives the Flower](#)" by [Dylan Thomas](#) is a poem filled with various literary devices. Here are some of the key literary devices used in the poem:

Metaphor

The poem employs metaphors to compare the life force that drives the flower to a powerful, elemental, and indomitable energy. For example, the force is described as "the green fuse" that drives the flower, suggesting a connection between life and a fuse that kindles and maintains it.

Personification

The poem personifies nature and the life force, attributing human qualities to them. Nature is depicted as having a "strange and lovely song," giving it human-like characteristics.

Imagery

Dylan Thomas uses vivid imagery throughout the poem to paint a picture of the natural world and its life force. He describes "the force that drives the water through the rocks" and "the force that drives the flower" to create visual and sensory images.

Oxymoron

The poem contains oxymoronic phrases like "green age" and "grief's end," juxtaposing contradictory elements to convey complex ideas about life, growth, and decay.

Symbolism

The poem can be interpreted symbolically, with the "green fuse" representing the life force and the cycle of life and death. The flower symbolizes life and growth, while "grief's end" suggests the inevitable conclusion of life.

Anaphora

Anaphora is the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses. The poem begins several lines with "And" or "So," using anaphora to connect and emphasize ideas.

Paradox

The poem contains paradoxical ideas, such as "The force that drives the water through the rocks / Drives my red blood." This juxtaposition of natural and human elements highlights the interconnectedness of all life.

Symbols

Green Fuse

The "green fuse" represents the life force or energy. It drives all living things. It symbolizes the vitality and growth present in nature.

Flower

The "flower" is the symbol of life, beauty, and vitality. It represents the individual living beings and their inevitable journey towards death.

The Force

"The Force" is the mysterious, powerful energy that propels life and growth in the natural world. It symbolizes the life force or vital energy that sustains all living things.

Green age

The "green age" suggests the early, vibrant stage of life when everything is fresh and full of potential. It represents youth and vitality.