

The Windhover Literary Device

Writer: Gerard Manley Hopkins | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Figures of Speech

- **Alliteration:** Hopkins uses the repetition of consonant sounds to make the poem musical and lively. For example, in "dapple-dawn-drawn," the repeated 'd' sound adds rhythm and energy.
- **Metaphor:** The falcon is a metaphor for Christ. Its flight shows divine power and beauty. The bird is not just a bird but a symbol of spiritual strength.
- **Personification:** Hopkins gives human qualities to nature. For example, he calls the falcon "kingdom of daylight's dauphin," as if the bird is a royal prince ruling the sky.
- **Imagery:** Hopkins uses vivid images to help us see, hear, and feel the falcon's flight. Words like "plunge, plume, and pride" create a clear picture of movement and beauty.
- **Symbols:**
 - **The Falcon (Windhover):** Symbolizes Christ, divine power, and spiritual beauty. The bird's flight shows control, strength, and God's glory in nature.
 - **The Morning Light:** Represents new beginnings, hope, and spiritual awakening. The early morning, when the falcon flies, symbolizes purity and fresh energy.
 - **The Plume (Feathers):** Symbolizes pride and majesty. The falcon's feathers represent its royal status and the beauty of God's creation.
 - **The Air / Sky:** Represents freedom and the spiritual realm. The falcon's mastery of the air shows control over life's challenges and the connection between earth and heaven.
 - **The "Brute Beauty":** Symbolizes the wild but perfect power in nature and in faith. It shows how strength and rawness can still be beautiful and full of grace.

Main Message:

- "Even small things can show divine glory."
- "Nature is a mirror of God's power."