

How does the author use repetition to develop theme in “The Wind’s Visit”?

In this lesson you will learn how to
determine the theme of a poem by
analyzing the author's use of
repetition.

Let's Review

The Wind's Visit

The wind tapped like a tired man,
And like a host, "Come in,"
I boldly answered; entered then
My residence within
A rapid, footless guest,
To offer whom a chair
Were as impossible as hand
A sofa to the air.
No bone had he to bind him,
His speech was like the push
Of numerous humming-birds at once
From a superior bush.

"The Wind's Visit" by Emily Dickinson

- Theme of a poem can be determined through details in the text
 - Theme can also be determined by how the speaker/narrator reflects on a topic

Let's Review

The Wind's Visit (con't)

His countenance a billow,
His fingers, if he pass,
Let go a music, as of tunes
Blown tremulous in glass.
He visited, still flitting;
Then, like a timid man,
Again he tapped – 't was flurriedly –
And I became alone.

Emily Dickinson

Determining Theme

- Specific word choice by the author
- Conveyed through particular details
- Look for subtle patterns within the text

Core Lesson

- 1 Reread to identify repeating word(s) and phrases in the text.
- 2 Ask, “*Where* does it repeat within the text?” Jot down where it occurs.
- 3 Ask yourself, “Why did the author choose these places within the text to use repetition? Jot down your thinking.

Core Lesson

Reread to identify repeating word(s) and phrases in the text.

The Wind's Visit

The wind tapped like a tired man,
And like a host, "Come in,"
I boldly answered; entered then
My residence within
A rapid, footless guest,
To offer whom a chair
Were as impossible as hand
A sofa to the air.
No bone had he to bind him,
His speech was like the push
Of numerous humming-birds at once
From a superior bush.

His countenance a billow,
His fingers, if he pass,
Let go a music, as of tunes
Blown tremulous in glass.
He visited, still flitting;
Then, like a timid man,
Again he tapped – 't was flurriedly –
And I became alone.

Emily Dickinson

Are there any
words/phrases
that repeat?

Core Lesson

Ask, “*Where* does it repeat within the text?” Jot down where the repetition occurs

The Wind’s Visit

The wind tapped like a tired man
And like a host, “Come in,
I boldly answered; entered
My residence within
A rapid, footless guest,
To offer whom a chair
Were as impossible as hand
A sofa to the air.
No bone had he to bind him
His speech was like the purr
Of numerous humming-birds at once
From a superior bush.

- First line: “the wind tapped like a tired man”
- End of poem: “then, like a timid man, again he tapped-”

...ce a billow,
...he pass,
...e, as of tunes
...ous in glass.
...l flitting;
...mid man,
...ed – ‘t was flurriedly –
...alone.

Emily Dickinson

Core Lesson

Ask yourself “Why did the author choose these places for your thinking.”

The Wind's Visit

The wind tapped like a tired man,
And like a host, “Come in,”

I boldly answered, “Enter in,”

My residence, “What can you bring?”

A rap, a tap, a knock, a bang,

To tell me, “I am here to stay.”

Why did you come to visit me?”

At last he answered, “I am here to stay.”

No more he said, but he came in

His head bowed low, his hands in prayer.

Of numbers, he said, “I have no care.”

From a superior being, he came

Why did Emily Dickinson choose to repeat at the beginning and end of the poem?

- Occurs at very beginning & very end of poem
- Man comes alone, leaves alone
- Visit very brief
- Narrator: I *became* alone

Core Lesson

Ask yourself, “Why did the author choose these places to use repetition?” Jot down your

The Wind

The wind

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From a

Emily Dickinson uses the repeated line of *the tired/timid man tapping* at the very beginning and at the very end of the poem. The man comes alone and leaves alone. The phrase signals the start and end of the wind’s visit. The visit is very brief. The visit leaves the narrator feeling lonely. She does not state that she *was* alone; but rather that she *became* alone. His visit left her feeling this way. The author’s word choice in the poem supports the theme of loneliness.

Core Lesson

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- 2** Ask, “*Where* does it repeat within the text?” Jot down where the repetition occurs.
- 3** Ask yourself, “Why did the author choose these places in the poem to use repetition?” Jot down your thinking.

In this lesson you have learned how to
determine the theme of a poem by
analyzing the author's use of repetition.