

Lesson Name : 42

Lesson Title : Souls Joy, Now I Am Gone

Course Name : English 2 Part 1 [Honors]

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Essential Instruction

Please read John Donne's poem, "[Soul's Joy, Now I am Gone.](#)"

Poets use different **conventions**, or techniques, that help the reader to understand the meaning in their poems. John Donne's poem, "Soul's Joy, Now I am Gone," uses many of these conventions to make the work effective.



Poetry Conventions

Rhythm is the repetition of stressed and unstressed syllables. Let's review an example of **rhythm** from the poem:

Each **other's sight**,
And **makes to us a constant night**,
When **others change to light** ;

As you are reading, do you notice how you stress the bolded words and syllables? This is the poem's **rhythm**, and it helps to move the reader through the poem. Sometimes rhythm can be used to emphasize emotions, like anger or pleasure.

Figurative language is a form of language in which the stated meaning of words is different than the implied meaning. Simply put, the author's intentions are different than what is written.

Personification is a type of figurative language that gives human-like characteristics to an idea, an animal, or an object. Donne uses personification in his poem, "Soul's Joy, Now I am Gone," by giving the "soul" the ability to "kiss." Let's take a look at the passage from the text:

By distance our hope's joining bliss,
Even then our souls shall kiss;

This passage does not literally mean that their souls are kissing, in the way that two humans would kiss. Instead, Donne is saying that despite the fact that they are not physically together, the speaker and his lover's souls can still connect.

Imagery is one tool authors use to help us form mental images from their language choices. In the example from the text that follows, you see darkness, and then you see light. Here is the passage from the text:

Yet when unto our eyes

Absence denies

Each other's sight,

And makes to us a constant night,

When others change to light;

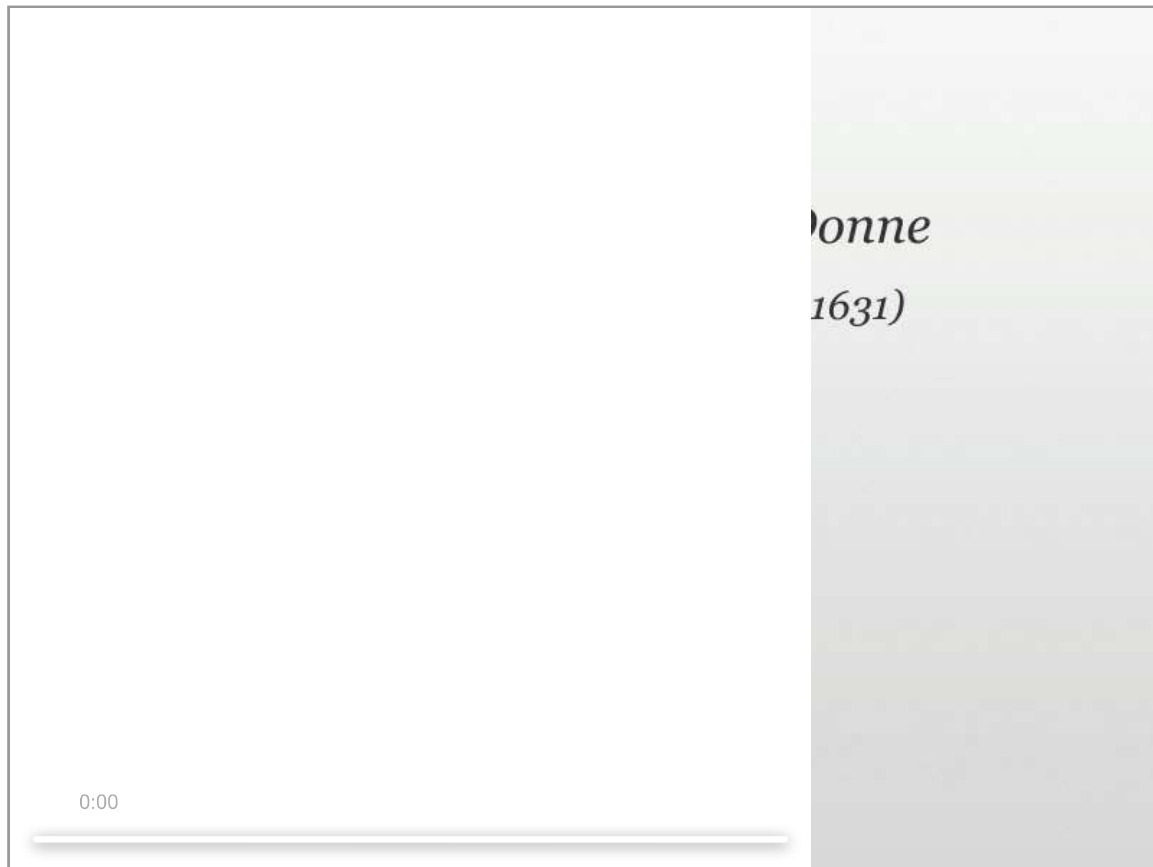
When reading this passage, the poet wants the reader to imagine seeing nothing in the darkness of night, and then feel like a light has been turned on when "others change to light."

Symbolism is language that stands for both its usual meaning and for a larger concept or meaning. Let's look at another example from the text.

Fools have no means to meet,

But by their feet...

The line that mentions "their feet," is showing **symbolism** for the greater meaning of physically being together in a relationship. The narrator says that the only way "fools" can be together is through a physical meeting. However, this poem is about the narrator and his or her love being separated physically, but not in mind or spirit.



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