

The poem repeats the 's' sound to mimic the wind in the poem. Highlight or circle 's' sounds throughout the poem.

The poem has two different stanzas that describe two opposite things. What are they describing?

'the sombre pines'

The word 'sombre' means to feel sad or serious. What kind of mood does this give in this stanza?

The pines 'harbour an eerie wind that crooneth low'.

This is describing the noise of the wind as it moves over the scene.

The word 'eerie' means spooky or unnatural. What does this make the scene sound like? How does it make you feel?

'the glimmering wastes of virgin snow'

What does this make you imagine about the snow? Who else is there? What does it look like?

'The morn comes in a milk-white splendor newly-born'.

How does the poet show the change in mood in this line? How does it make you feel?

'A sword of crimson cuts in twain the gray'

'Crimson' is the colour red. What is making this colour in this part of the poem? How is it different to the earlier description of the poem?

How does the poet show the differences between night and day in this poem? Find at least two quotations to show this.

A Winter Dawn by Lucy Maud Montgomery

The poem repeats the 's' sound throughout. This is called sibilance.

Identify where this is used in the poem.

What could the sibilance be mimicking in the poem?

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The two stanzas contrast. What are they each about? In what ways are they different?

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'the sombre pines'

What kind of mood does this give this stanza?

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The pines 'harbour an eerie wind that crooneth low'.

This personifies the wind as it moves over the scene.

What does it suggest about the wind?

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'the glimmering wastes of virgin snow'

What do the adjectives 'glimmering' and 'virgin' suggest about the snow?

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'The morn comes in a milk-white splendour newly-born'.

The poet uses a metaphor of birth here. How is this achieved?

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'A sword of crimson cuts in twain the gray'

What is happening in this part of the poem?

How does it contrast with the earlier description in stanza 1?

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What mood and atmosphere is presented in the poem? Find quotations to support this.

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The poet uses sibilance throughout the poem.
Why might this be?

How does the structure of the poem present a
juxtaposition of the topic?

What kind of mood is presented in the
first stanza?
Find quotations to support this.

In the first stanza, the wind is personified. How
is this achieved and what is the effect?

The second stanza begins with metaphorical
reference to innocence and freshness. How is
this achieved?

The poet describes how a 'sword of crimson cuts
in twain the gray'. What is the effect of this?
What is literally happening in this part of
the poem?

What are the 'shadow hosts'? What does this
personification suggest?

How does the mood and atmosphere change
through the poem?

Track through the text and identify the
quotations that show this.

What does it suggest about this event?