

## Week 4 Annotation Option #2: "In April" by Rainer Maria Rilke

1. Copy & paste the following poem "In April" into your Poetry Week 4 doc.

### "In April"

By [Rainer Maria Rilke](#)

Again the woods are odorous, the lark  
Lifts on upsoaring wings the heaven gray  
That hung above the tree-tops, veiled and dark,  
Where branches bare disclosed the empty day.

After long rainy afternoons an hour  
Comes with its shafts of golden light and flings  
Them at the windows in a radiant shower,  
And rain drops beat the panes like timorous wings.

Then all is still. The stones are crooned to sleep  
By the soft sound of rain that slowly dies;  
And cradled in the branches, hidden deep  
In each bright bud, a slumbering silence lies.

2. Find **AT LEAST 3 different figurative language devices** in the poem. For each, label the feature with a comment, and explain it (use the questions to help you).

**Figurative Language** (Choose 3 kinds to **label an example** of & **explain** in a comment)

- **Simile** → What is being compared? Why?
- **Metaphor** → What is being compared? Why?
- **Personification** → What is behaving like a human person? What is the human behavior?
- **Idiom** → What is the expression, and what does it mean?
- **Hyperbole** → What is being exaggerated? What effect does the exaggeration have?
- **Allusion** → What is being referred to?
- **Sensory image(ry)** → What is being described? What sense(s) are being used?
- **Extended metaphor** → What is the metaphor, and what does it say about the thing it represents?

3. Find **AT LEAST 2 different sound devices** in the poem. For each, label the feature with a comment.

**Sound Devices** (Choose 2 kinds to **label an example** of in a comment)

- **Rhyme Scheme** → make a comment on the last word of each line to label the pattern
- **Alliteration**
- **Onomatopoeia**
- **Enjambment**
- **Repetition**

4. Finally, add a comment and analyze **how the poet ENDS the poem**. What technique(s) does he/she use to make a resonant, or poignant, ending?

**Hint:** If you don't know or remember some of these terms, use the **explanations and examples below** to help you :)

## Figurative Language Terms

### **Simile**

A comparison between two things using the word 'like' or the word 'as'

Example: "the sun cresting **like a wave that won't break**" -- Smith's "How Dark the Beginning"

### **Metaphor**

A comparison between two things WITHOUT using 'like' or 'as'. It might be using a "to be" verb, or by means of an implication that the two things are the same.

Example: "**the slap and pop were obscene threats**" -- Heaney's "Death of a Naturalist"

### **Personification**

When a writer describes a non-human thing as if it has human emotions, motivations, or performs human actions. [Sometimes authors do this by turning something into a proper noun & capitalizing it!]

Example: "even **the universe is telling us...**" -- Smith's "Meteor Shower"

[Universes don't actually talk like humans do.]

### **Idiom**

A common expression that has a figurative meaning that is different from the literal, or dictionary, definition of the words in the phrase

Example: "my eager **mind begins to race**" -- Engle's "[Books are door-shaped]"

['mind racing' is a common expression meaning that you are thinking a lot of things at once]

### **Hyperbole**

An extreme exaggeration for effect

Example: "**All we ever talk of** is light" -- Smith's "How Dark the Beginning"

[Humans do talk about things other than light. That is not literally ALL we discuss EVER.]

### **Allusion**

A reference (usually a name) to something from a work of art, literature, or historic or popular culture. An allusion only makes sense to the reader if the reader knows what it is being referred to.

Example: "**Bic** lighter" -- Weyant's "Yellowjackets"

[Bic is a company/brand that makes lighters and other household office products]

### **Sensory Imagery**

Vivid description using any of the five senses (sight, smell, taste, sound, touch) that paints an image in the reader's mind

Example: "their usual **side-to-side swag / of a dance, flailing** in the smoke" -- Weyant's "Yellowjackets"

### **Extended Metaphor**

A metaphor that is used throughout a poem or piece of literature (more than one instance of comparison)

Example: a **meteor = life's path/journey** -- Clint Smith's "Meteor Shower"

## Sound Device Terms

### **Rhyme Scheme**

The rhyming patterns of line endings in a poem

Learn [how to identify and label the rhyme scheme of a poem](#)

### **Alliteration**

The use of repeated consonant sounds at the beginning of a series of words

Example: "**un**ladylike and **ugly**" -- Engle's "[Books are door-shaped]"; "**c**oarse **c**roaking" -- Heaney's "Death of a Naturalist"

### **Onomatopoeia**

The use of made-up words to represent sounds

Example: quack, tick-tock, boom, bang, splash, zoom

### **Enjambment**

When a poet splits up a sentence or phrase over multiple lines in a poem, breaking up the flow and rhythm of the sentence as it would sound in prose

Example: "Each child in this family has the same space / connecting us" -- Woodson's "genetics"

### **Repetition**

When a poet uses repeated words or phrases to create emphasis or to evoke a sound or certain rhythm