

Hughes variety of poetic and literary techniques essay

[Profession](#), [Poet](#)



Hughes uses a variety of poetic and literary techniques to communicate his tone. Namely, he utilized figurative language, personification, similes, and metaphors to effectively get his message across. He uses the repetition of identical or similar vowel sounds; “ Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun? “.

Up and sun do not rhyme, but they have the same “ uh” sound. Rhyme:

Poetry having correspondence in the terminal sounds of the lines. “ Does it stink like rotten meat?... like a syrup sweet? ” Meat and sweet rhyme.

They have the same ending “ eat” sound. Alliteration: The repetition of the same letter at the beginning of two or more words immediately succeeding each other, or at short intervals. For example, the “ s” sound in syrupy and sweet is repeated. This adds emphasis to the phrase. Imagery/Figurative language Langston Hughes uses a lot of imagery in this poem. Imagery is a specific language that describes sensory details. This gives a very vivid picture of the ideas in the poem.

Dream Deferred is almost all imagery. An example of that would be; “ Or crust over like a syrupy sweet? This sentence portrays a picture in my mind of a old crusty hard candy lying in a gutter covered in mud. Also, In the beginning of the poem, Hughes uses visual imaging/similes to compare a ‘ dream deferred’ to a raisin. “ Does it [the dream] dry up/Like a raisin in the sun? “. The once raisin healthy looking grape, has shriveled up to become a raisin. The question remains, why compare a ‘ dream deferred’ to a raisin? For one, the appearance of the raisin isn’t emphasized, so the description isn’t as significant as the simile.

What Hughes is attempting to communicate is that like a raisin, a dream deferred shrivels up and turns dark because the sun has baked it (negative connotation). The comparison of the dream to a withered raisin emphasizes how a dream that is postponed changes dramatically and will not turn out as the person originally intended. Connotations For example, the word ' Stink' has the denotation of having a strong unpleasant smell. Thus, it gives out the connotation of being nasty, ugly, and horrible smelling. Many instances of denotations/connotations are seen hroughout this short poem.

Personification The dream ' run(s)'. The entire poem gives inanimate objects characteristics that are human.

Similes/Metaphors These two are seen consistently throughout the poem. For instance, It opens with a very blatant ' like' simile. This is just one of many in the poem. In conclusion, Hughes uses a carefully arranged series of images that function as figures of speech to suggest that people should not delay their dreams because the more they postpone them, the more the dreams will change and the less likely they are to come true.