

Figurative Language: Edgar Allan Poe's "The Bells"



Below is the beginning of Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Bells." Read it carefully.

The Bells

by Edgar Allan Poe

I.

Hear the sledges with the bells—
Silver bells!

What a world of merriment their melody foretells!

How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,
In the icy air of night!

While the stars that oversprinkle
All the heavens, seem to twinkle

With a crystalline delight;
Keeping time, time, time,

In a sort of Runic rhyme,

To the tintinabulation that so musically wells

From the bells, bells, bells, bells,

Bells, bells, bells—

From the jingling and the tinkling of the bells.

II.

Hear the mellow wedding bells,
Golden bells!

What a world of happiness their harmony foretells?

Through the balmy air of night
How they ring out their delight!

From the molten-golden notes,
And all in tune,

What a liquid ditty floats

To the turtle-dove that listens, while she gloats

On the moon!

Oh, from out the sounding cells,

What a gush of euphony voluminously wells!

How it swells!

How it dwells

On the Future! how it tells

Of the rapture that impels

To the swinging and the ringing

Of the bells, bells, bells,

Of the bells, bells, bells, bells,

Bells, bells, bells—

To the rhyming and the chiming of the bells!

From the text:

1) Write two examples of alliteration.

2) Write two examples of personification.

3) Write two examples of onomatopoeia.

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From the text:

Actual student's answers may vary.

Examples of correct answers:

1) Write two examples of alliteration.

a) "Runic rhyme"

b) "merriment their melody foretells"

2) Write two examples of personification.

a) "seem to twinkle/"

With a crystalline delight"

b) "the turtle-dove that listens, while

she glows"

3) Write two examples of onomatopoeia.

a) "tinkle, tinkle, tinkle"

b) "bells, bells, bells, bells,/"

Bells, bells, bells"
