

Sound

The idea of sound in poetry is a broad one indeed, covering figurative language (alliteration, assonance, consonance, etc.), rhyme, diction and more. In brief, sound is used to create and maintain tone as well as points of emphasis within a poem. But rather than get caught up in all this complexity, try examining the basic sounds that end each line or punctuate each keyword. You'll notice that some sounds are forceful and short (b,d,k,p,q,t, and c and g) creating emphasis and power while others linger and drift (l,m,n,and r) suggesting a slower pace and deeper reflection. Look to these as a starting point in any discussion of sound.

