

The Magic Box

by Kit Wright

I will put in the box
The swish of a silk sari on a summer night,
Fire from the nostrils of a Chinese dragon,
The tip of a tongue touching a tooth.

I will put in the box
A snowman with a rumbling belly,
A sip of the bluest water from Lake Lucerne,
A leaping spark from an electric fish.

I will put into the box
Three violet wishes spoken in Gujarati,
The last joke of an ancient uncle,
And the first smile of a baby.

I will put into the box
A fifth season and a black sun,
A cowboy on a broomstick,
And a witch on a white horse.

My box is fashioned from ice and gold and steel,
With stars on the lid and secrets in the corners,
Its hinges are the toe joints of dinosaurs.

I shall surf in my box
On the great high-rolling breakers of the wild
Atlantic,
Then wash ashore on a yellow beach,
The colour of the sun.

The Magic Box - Figurative Language

When looking at language in a text:

- Skim and scan to find the word or phrase on the text
- Read the word or phrase carefully in the context of the sentence or paragraph
- What is the author trying to say in this context?
- What is the author trying to achieve by using this technique?

Onomatopoeia - words that sound like the common sound of the object it is describing.

Example:

Buzz (describes the sound of a bee or a saw)

Hiss (describes the sound a snake or kettle makes)

Alliteration - the repetition of identical or similar sounds at the beginning of words.

Example:

A busy bee buzzes by the begonias.

Lisa loves lemon ice lollies.

Answer the questions. For each, give an example of your own noun that makes the same or similar sound too.

1. Which line in **verse 1** contains an example of onomatopoeia? _____

2. Which words in **verse 2** are examples of onomatopoeia? _____

3. Fill in the chart below with examples of onomatopoeia for the noun given.
Give more than one example for each - use your synonyms if you can!

| Noun | Examples of Onomatopoeia |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| Car | Vroom, Roar, Whizz, Crash, Zoom |
| Water | |
| People | |
| Birds | |
| Leaves | |
| Fire | |
| Dishes | |

4. List at least three examples of alliteration you find in this poem. There are more, if you can find them. _____

5. Fill in the chart below with adjectives/nouns to create expanded noun phrases which will be examples of alliteration.

| Adjective | Noun |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Busy, buzzing, bumbling | bee |
| | feather |
| | bear |
| | grass |
| gently | |
| lazy | |
| fantastic | |

Extension: Draw some examples of onomatopoeia - make the sound leap off your paper! Something that might look like this. I can almost hear the sound zap!



Draw some examples of alliteration. Perhaps something like this?



Challenge: Can you write a sentence using your onomatopoeia and alliteration skills?