

LANGUAGE LESSON



All aspiring authors absolutely must make use of the professional poets' traditional tools. Here are some easy exercises to help you learn two such techniques: **alliteration** and **onomatopoeia** (on-eh-ma-toe-pee-ah). Aim to add these devices into your writing repertoire.

Alliteration: Repetition of the same letter (or sound) at the beginning of two or more neighboring words. For example, "Fancy Nancy dresses divinely for every event she atends."

Underline the alliteration in the sentences below:

- ♥ Bree brings bunches of bright berries and gorgeous grapes for some scrumptious snacking.
- ♥ Nancy knows never to talk too much when writing rousing rhymes in the Palace of Poetry.

Finish the following sentences by adding alliterative words to each empty line:

- ♥ Fabulous friends _____.
- ♥ Beautiful butterflies _____.
- ♥ Silly sounds _____.

Onomatopoeia: A word or phrase that sounds like the thing or action it stands for. Examples of onomatopoeia are: buzz, pop, sizzle, zoom, hiss, click, hum, itch, knock, meow, and moo.

- ♥ Make a list of all the onomatopoeia words you can think of. Select words that sound just like the thing or action they name, such as drip drop, choo-choo, ding-dong, and beep beep.
- ♥ Write three sentences using one or more of the words from your list. Insert the onomatopoeia words for emphasis (that's fancy for importance) to enhance your meaning.
- ♥ Rewrite each sentence using a different onomatopoeia word. Then review the new sentences and see if the meaning has changed.
- ♥ Find examples of onomatopoeia in the comic strip section of the newspaper and in magazine advertisements. Seeing samples in daily life will help bring the concept home.

Bree's poem about hiccups includes an onomatopoeia word. Can you pick out the onomatopoeia in the opening couplet? Circle it below and then read *Fancy Nancy: Poet Extraordinaire!* to learn how the poem ends!

Hic hic hiccups
Make my tummy jump in and out.



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