



## Walter Scott 1771-1832

### 'The Bard's Incantation,' by Sir Walter Scott.

The Forest of Glenmore is drear,  
It is all of black pine, and the dark oak-tree;  
And the midnight wind, to the mountain deer,  
Is whistling the forest-lullaby:-  
The moon looks through the drifting storm,  
But the troubled lake reflects not her form,  
For the waves roll whitening to the land,  
And dash against the shelvy strand.

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There is a voice among the trees  
That mingles with the groaning oak-  
That mingles with the stormy breeze,  
And the lake-waves dashing against the rock;-  
There is a voice within the wood,  
The voice of the Bard in fitful mood,  
His song was louder than the blast,  
As the Bard of Glenmore through the forest past.

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1. Personification is when non-human objects are given human qualities. Find one example of personification in lines 1-8. What is personified? What effect does the personification have?
2. Find one example of repetition in lines 9-16.
3. Why do you think Scott uses repetition?
4. Pick one example of how Scott uses word choice to suggest that something is about to happen in lines 9-16.
5. Alliteration is when words begin with the same sound. Find one example of alliteration in lines 16-24. Why do you think Scott uses alliteration?





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### Answers

1. Pupils' own choice from: 'whistling' wind; the moon that looks; the 'troubled lake'. In these cases, the wind, moon, and lake are personified. Pupil's own choice on the effect. Possible answers include: it adds interest to the description; it makes the description spooky because the landscape seems alive.
2. Pupils' own choice from: repetition of the word 'voice', repetition of the phrase 'that mingles'.
3. Pupils' own choice.
4. Pupils' own choice. Possible answers include: 'groaning', 'dashing', 'fitful'.
5. Pupils' own choice about one of these quotes: 'midnight meteors', 'wild woodland.'

### Advanced Questions

6. Pupils' own choice. Answers include: spooky, troubled, mysterious.
7. Because the waves are too big.
8. Pupils' own choice.
9. It means sloping, but pupils can also say that it looks like shelves/corrugating. It helps the reader imagine the scene. The soft 'sh' sound also mimics the sound of waves.
10. It moves from setting a mysterious/spooky tone to suggesting something is about to happen.
11. Pupils' own choice.