

## Walter Scott 1771-1832

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

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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.

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.

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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And time is meet to awake the dead."

\*The forest of Glenmore is haunted by a spirit called Lhamdearg, or Red-hand.

**Advanced Questions** 

- 1. What atmosphere does Walter Scott create in lines 2-8?
- 2. Why does line 6 say that the lake doesn't reflect the image of the moon?
- 3. Do you think lines 1-8 is an effective opening of a poem? Why or why not?
- 4. What do you think the word 'shelvy' on line 8 means? Why do you think Walter Scott has included it?
- 5. How does the tone of the poem change in lines 16-24?
- 6. These three stanzas are taken from a longer poem. What do you think happens next? Why?









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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.





