

A

Poem Reading Sheet (Two due on Friday each week. If we do poems by more than one author, analyze poems by two different authors):

Name: Erin Casey Harris

Poem, author, year (if known). The Oven Bird by Robert Frost (1916)

Speaker, audience, (if indicated) and situation of poem. Speaker is an observer of nature, in particular the Oven Bird. The audience is one who would be interested in nature metaphors. The situation is hearing the song of the Oven Bird in the summer.

5000
paraphrase

Paraphrase the poem or a part of the poem (if it's long) in prose lines (that is, translate it into your own words. **Do not summarize it**). There exists a renderer of songs to whom all have been exposed—a noisy winged animal with feathers who sings in the middle of the third season of the year from the middle of the forest, he provides clamor in the stout upright portions of the forest flora. The bird states that the foliage is past its prime and that the second season of the year brings better. The bird also states that the foliage that falls in the second season of the year from certain deciduous trees similar to rain has gone and ceased making flowers look like clouds; now comes the fourth season of the year whose name is a homonym and a pun. The bird states that light dirt from the road capable of floating has covered the landscape. The winged animal with feathers would stop and that would make him more like other birds; however, the bird reckons that he should render his voice not like other birds. He is asking without speech how to understand loss.

Discuss some of the poem's sonic aspects (that is, rhythm, meter, repetition, alliteration, consonance, assonance). This poem has no definite rhyme scheme but there are line ends that do rhyme, sometimes they are adjoining, sometimes not. The meter falls in and out of iambic pentameter. Really, it is almost close to these things and yet, somehow not. "Mid" is repeated to the effect of bringing us to a spot in the moment. "Fall" is repeated, indicating an approaching end.

red

Discuss some of the poem's sensory aspects (that is, symbol, metaphor/simile, imagery, description) As above, the linking of the seasons to the rhythms of life (with "mid" and "fall") brings an awareness that this may be an overall metaphor for slowing down around the middle of life and listening to the message that youth has passed and old age is soon to come.

Look up one familiar word or one unfamiliar word in the online Oxford English Dictionary <http://www.oed.com/>. You may have to look this up on campus. Give a brief history of each word and explain how it has changed. OR, look up the word using American Heritage Online (<http://www.bartleby.com/61/>). Use the Word History and Etymology sections, including the section on cognates (click where it says see root in Appendix I). **Do not define the word—that's not the point of this question!**

Bloom = derives from the Middle English and Old Norse "blom," which derives from the Latin word folium and possibly also the Old English "blowan". First used circa 1200 in the form "blome".

cool not bloom is related to bless, bleed, & blade though
the root bhel. Speculate about these relationships.