

# **“Spring” by Henry Howard**

The title , “Spring “ , refers to the sweetest season of the year .The poem is full of imageries to show us the rebirth of nature and beauty in spring.

# The Structure

The poet experiments with Petrarchan sonnet form . •  
The poem is of fourteen lines divided into an opening **Quatrain( the coming of spring)** , followed by an **Octave (8 lines)** , and **Rhyming Couplet**. There is **Volta or turn ( L 5)** When the topic shifts to discuss the coming of summer . The rhyme scheme is **abab abababab aa** .

**Volta : the place at which a distinct turn to thoughts occurs( a transition point commonly used in a sonnet as between the octave and the sestet of a Petrarchan sonnet.** •

# The Opening Quatrain

The sweetest season , spring , brings buds and •  
blooms. The hills and valleys are all covered with  
green grass which reflects the **renewal of beauty in**  
spring. **The** nightingale happily sings  
(**Personification**) with new feathers , and the turtle  
tells her mate a tale (**Personification**).

# The Octave

There is **Volta** when the poet turns to describe the coming of summer , which is also a season of warmth and activity , causing every spray to spring.(**Pun** ) •

**Pun** : a play on words which have the same sounds but different meanings. •

The hart or stag hangs his last year's antlers on the pale (picket ) and now has new ones. Also , the buck flings his old wintry coat with the coming of summer. •

Again we see how creatures in nature are renewing their beauty and are active once more. •

# The Octave

The fishes , as well, float with new scales (renewal of beauty) .The adder sloughs her old skin and the swallow is fast pursuing the flies while the bee is busy mixing honey (personification). Winter , which was such an evil to flowers causing them destruction , is now over ( metaphor) •

# The Rhyming Couplet

The poet shows his sadness for not being part of the happy world and the creatures around •  
.They are happy and free of worry unlike the poet who is sad for being rejected by his beloved (Contrast) . His sorrow then springs , like a fountain , in spring ( pun ).

# Poetic Devices

1. Alliteration

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2. Personification

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3. Metaphor

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4. Rhyme

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5.

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imagery

6. Pun

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7. Contrast

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