

“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 ababab abab 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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