

**Alliteration** is the use of words that begin with the same sound near one another. An author might use alliteration in his/her writing to emphasize certain words or to create rhythm and mood. For example, repetition of the “s” sound often suggests a snake-like quality, implying slyness and danger.

**Example 1:**

“Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.”

*Note*: The repeated “p” sound is a sharp sound, punctuating each word of this well-known tongue twister. This sharp sound creates a ‘sing-songy’ mood.

**Example 2:**

“Heavenly Hillsboro, the buckle on the bible belt.”

-Jerome Laurence and Robert E. Lee, *Inherit the Wind*

*Note*: The authors repeat the “H” sound and then the “B” sound. Notice the soft, soothing effect of the “H” sound and the sharp, percussive effect of the “B” sounds.

What is the effect of the repeated letter sounds you identified? Why does the author use alliteration?

As you read this poem, highlight examples of alliteration. What letter sounds do you see repeated the most?

Silver

Slowly, silently, now the moon  
Walks the night in her silver shoon;  
This way, and that, she peers, and sees  
Silver fruit upon silver trees;  
One by one the casements catch  
Her beams beneath the silvery thatch;  
Couched in his kennel, like a log,  
With paws of silver sleeps the dog;  
From their shadowy cote the white breasts peep  
Of doves in silver feathered sleep  
A harvest mouse goes scampering by,  
With silver claws, and silver eye;  
And moveless fish in the water gleam,  
By silver reeds in a silver stream.

By Walter de la Mare

**Alliteration Tongue Twister Activity**

1. Pick the name of a person that you would like to write a tongue twister about. (Names that begin with b, d, l, m, p, s, or t are easiest). Put that name below. Write a tongue twister using that person’s name.
2. Write a tongue twister about yourself.
3. Write a tongue twister about a celebrity.

**Poem Assignment:**

**Use a picture from your teacher or pick a picture that you like.** On a sheet of notebook paper, write a poem of at least 12 lines that describes what you see in the photograph. You must use alliteration at least 3 times. Make sure you choose to alliterate with letter sounds that help to develop the theme and tone of the poem!

**Requirements: 12 lines, 3 types of alliteration, imagery, repetition, one poetry term of choice**

*Poem due Friday, January 12th*