

The background is a light cream color. It features several abstract elements: a large pink shape on the left, a yellow shape at the top left, a yellow diagonal band running from the top right towards the bottom, and a light green shape on the right. There are four black wavy lines scattered across the background, resembling rain or stylized clouds.

Rain on the Roof

Rain on the Roof Introduction to the Poem

From the title of the Poem-‘Rain on the Roof’, we can make out that the poem is about the rain. The poet is telling us about the memories he has of the rain. The sound of the raindrops falling on the roof of his house brings back sweet memories of the past

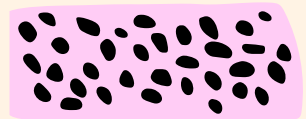


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Rain on the Roof Poem Explanation

When the humid shadows hover

Overall the starry spheres

And the melancholy darkness

Gently weeps in rainy tears,

What a bliss to press the pillow

Of a cottage-chamber bed

And lie listening to the patter

Of the soft rain overhead!

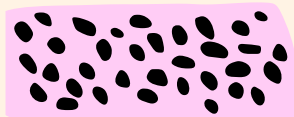


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Rain on the Roof Poem Explanation

Humid: something which is full of moisture.

'shadows' refers to the moisture-laden clouds which cast a shadow on the earth.

hover: Move around something

melancholy: sad

bliss: Happiness

patter: the sound of raindrops falling on the roof.

Cottage chamber means the bedroom.

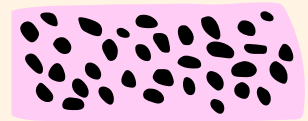


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Rain on the Roof Poem Explanation

The poet is saying that when the humid shadows hover (here, 'humid shadows' refers to dark clouds which are full of water). The poet is saying that when the sky is full of these clouds which are moisture-laden, are full of water, and are about to bring rain when such clouds hover around in the sky, overall the starry spheres ('starry spheres' refers to the sky at night time which is full of stars).

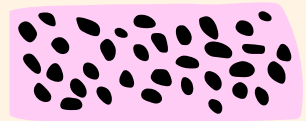


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Rain on the Roof Poem Explanation

At that time, huge clouds which are full of moisture, move around in the sky and the sad darkness of the night is wiped off by the raindrops which seem like tears falling from the sky.

The poet is comparing raindrops to tears and he says that the dark sky which seems to be very sad, it appears as if it is crying and the raindrops are the tears shed by it. He adds that it is like a blessing to lie on the bed in his room(Cottage chamber means bedroom) and listens to the sound made by raindrops falling on the roof.

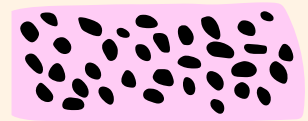


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Rain on the Roof Poem Explanation

**Every tinkle on the shingles
Has an echo in the heart;
And a thousand dreamy fancies
Into busy being start,
And a thousand recollections
Weave their air-threads into woof,
As I listen to the patter
Of the rain upon the roof.**

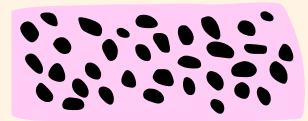


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Rain on the Roof Poem Explanation

tinkle: short, light ringing sound

shingles: rectangular wooden tiles used on roofs

echo: repeated sound

woof: weft, i.e. the thread woven across the loom

patter: the sound of raindrops falling on the roof

‘busy being’ refers to human beings and here, the poet is referring to himself

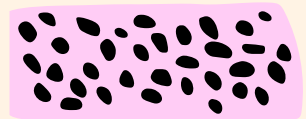


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Rain on the Roof Poem Explanation

The poet is expressing his feelings when he hears the raindrops falling on the rooftop of his house. He says that every tinkle on the shingles has an echo in the heart.

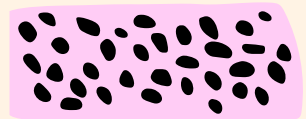


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Rain on the Roof Poem Explanation

Whenever he hears rain falling on the rooftop, the sound repeats in his heart, and in his dreams, he has many different, fanciful imaginations. He adds that this sound of the rain falling on the rooftop creates many new different dreams in his mind.

He recollects many memories of the past which come back into his mind as dreams. So, he says that as he listens to the patter of the rain upon the roof, he has many new dreams in his mind and the memories of the past come back in the form of dreams.

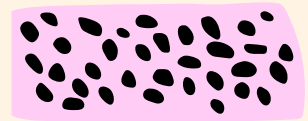


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Rain on the Roof Poem Explanation

**Now in memory comes my mother,
As she used in years ago,
To regard the darling dreamers
Ere she left them till the dawn:
O! I feel her fond look on me
As I list to this refrain
Which is played upon the shingles
By the patter of the rain.**



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Rain on the Roof Poem Explanation

ere: old poetic word for 'before'

dawn: day break

list: old poetic word for 'listen'

refrain: a repeated part of a song or a poem; here, the sound of the rain

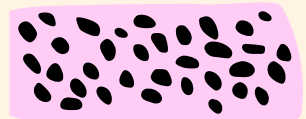


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Rain on the Roof Poem Explanation

Here, the poet introduces his mother. He says that he is dreaming of his mother. As he had told in the previous stanza that rain brings memories of the past – it is the memory of his mother who is no longer alive.

In the past, she used to love him a lot, she used to consider him a darling and she would let him sleep till daybreak and have sweet dreams.

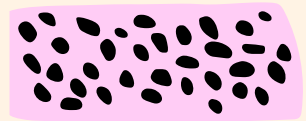


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Rain on the Roof Poem Explanation

The poet can still feel that his mother is looking at him as he listens to the song made by the raindrops falling on the rooftop of his room.

The sound of the rain makes him correlate his past with his present. That is why the poet is moved by the sound of the raindrops on the shingles of his room. Whenever he hears this sound it brings back memories of the past and he is reminded of his mother.

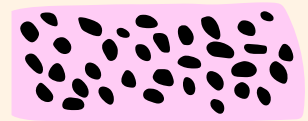


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Literary Devices in the poem

1. Alliteration: The repetition of a consonant sound in two or more consecutive words.

‘Humid Hover’ - ‘h’ sound is repeating.

‘starry spheres’ - ‘s’ sound is repeating.

‘press pillow’ - ‘p’ sound is repeating.

‘lie listening’ - ‘l’ sound is repeating.

2. Onomatopoeia: The use of sound words to create a dramatic effect and auditory imagery.

‘Patter’ is the use of sound words. It is the sound made by the raindrops falling on the rooftop.

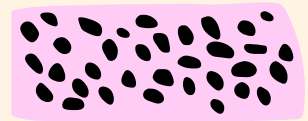


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Literary Devices in the poem

3. Personification: Treating a non – living thing as a living being.

darkness has been personified when he says that it is sad.

4. Transferred Epithet: The use of an adjective with a noun when it refers to another noun.

In ‘melancholy darkness’, the darkness is not melancholy, but it refers to the sad people.

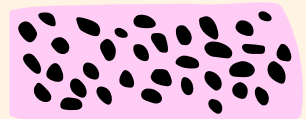


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Literary Devices in the poem

1. Alliteration: The repetition of a consonant sound in two or more consecutive words.

‘busy being’ - ‘b’ sound is repeating

‘their thread’ - ‘th’ sound is repeating

‘rain roof’ - ‘r’ sound is repeating

2. Onomatopoeia: The use of sound words to create a dramatic effect and auditory imagery.

‘tinkle’, ‘patter’ – sounds made by the raindrops

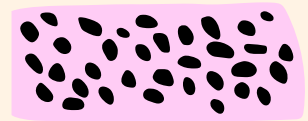


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Literary Devices in the poem

3. Personification: Treating a non – living thing as a living being.

recollection is personified when he says that they weave dreams.

4. Transferred Epithet: The use of an adjective with a noun when it refers to another noun.

‘dreamy fancies’ – it does not mean that the fancies are dreamy but refers to the people who have dreams.

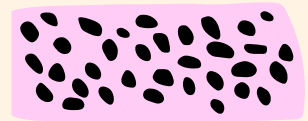


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Literary Devices in the poem

1. Alliteration: The repetition of a consonant sound in two or more consecutive words.

‘memory my mother’ - ‘m’ sound is repeating

‘Darling dreamers’ - ‘d’ sound is repeating

2. Onomatopoeia: The use of sound words to create a dramatic effect and auditory imagery.

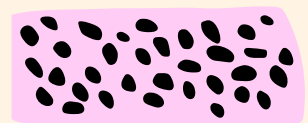


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Rain on the Roof Summary

The poem 'Rain on the Roof' talks about the poet's varied reactions to the sound of raindrops falling on the roof of his house. He says that the raindrops at night are like tears shed by the sad, dark night.

He loves to lie in bed and hear rain falling on the roof of his room because it gets back sweet memories of the past. He says that the sound of raindrops helps him fall asleep and gives him sweet dreams. He has memories of his loving mother who would put them to sleep.



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THANK YOU



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