



William Ernest Henley

Invictus

Published Date: 1888

'Invictus' is W.E. Henley's most famous and inspirational poem, that resonates with people worldwide. He wrote the poem in 1875 and dedicated it to Scottish flour merchant named Robert Thomas Hamilton Bruce.

Central Message: The indomitable human spirit and the power of resilience in the face of adversity.

Speaker: Likely the poet

Themes: Death, Identity, Journey

Period: 19th Century

Emotions: Courage, Fear, Pride

Form: Quatrain

Topics: Darkness, Inspiration, Life Lessons, Night

Meter: Iambic Tetrameter

Rhyme Scheme: ABAB

Nationality: English

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Tips to know before you read the poem

Henley wrote *'Invictus'* while recovering in a hospital bed after losing a leg to illness, which makes the poem's message of defiance and resilience feel especially personal and authentic. The title, meaning "unconquered" in Latin, perfectly captures the speaker's refusal to surrender to suffering, fate, or fear. As you read, notice the poem's steady rhythm: it mirrors the speaker's unwavering sense of control and inner strength.

The Poem Analysis Take



Expert Insights by [Jamie Jenson](#)

English Teacher, with a B.A. Honors in English and a M.Sc. in Education

The mindset Henley must have had to write it, despite the pain and turmoil he was experiencing, is incredibly admirable. I believe it is a poem everyone should remember and turn to during life's difficult moments. What makes *'Invictus'* so powerful is its unwavering belief in personal strength. Henley does not ignore suffering: he confronts it directly and insists that even in our darkest moments, we still have control. The final two lines, in particular, offer supreme strength and guidance: *"I am the master of my fate / I am the captain of my soul."* These words remind us that no matter what life throws at us, we still have the power to choose our response, especially when we understand Henley's personal context. If he could write this poem while enduring illness, excruciating pain, and the loss of a leg, then we can face all of our own challenges with strength, too.

Notes

Read the Poem

Invictus

William Ernest Henley

Out of the night that covers me ,	A
Black as the pit from pole to pole ,	B
I thank whatever gods may be	A
For my unconquerable soul .	B
In the fell clutch of circumstance	C
I have not winced nor cried aloud .	D
Under the bludgeonings of chance	C
My head is bloody, but unbowed .	D
Beyond this place of wrath and tears	E
Looms but the Horror of the shade ,	F
And yet the menace of the years	E
Finds and shall find me unafraid .	F
It matters not how strait the gate ,	G
How charged with punishments the scroll ,	B
I am the master of my fate ,	G
I am the captain of my soul .	B

The poem was first published in 1888—without a title—in Henley’s first volume of poetry. The title of the poem, *‘Invictus,’* which is Latin for “unconquered,” was given by the editor of “The Oxford Book of English Verse.”

This poem is a favorite in popular culture, making appearances in movies such as *Casablanca* and the *Nelson Mandela* movie of the same name. Politicians and authors also love to quote the inspirational last two lines of the poem:

“ I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.

Summary

‘Invictus’ by William Ernest Henley talks about the invincibility of a person who trusts himself or herself.

In this poem, the [speaker](#)^[1] is faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges. Throughout it all, however, he perseveres and is successful in his endeavors. He faces each challenge with courage and is not afraid, and he can surmount any hardship. “In the fell clutch of circumstance” or “Under the bludgeonings of [chance](#)^[2],” he has not bowed his head. However, he knows at some point in time, one has to enter the horrid palace of death.

But, it shall find the [speaker](#)^[1] unafraid. It does not

matter to him how narrow the gate to heaven is. Neither the “punishments” inscribed on the “scroll” makes him frightened. It is his self-belief and courage that will sail him through all the difficulties.

Invictus Meaning

‘Invictus’ is a Latin adjective meaning “unconquered, unsubdued, invincible.” It is a combination of two Latin words, “in,” meaning “not, opposite of” and “victus.” The word “victus” has come from the past participle of “vincere,” meaning “to conquer, overcome.”

Collectively, the word “Invictus” means one who cannot be conquered, meaning unconquerable. However, the poem was published in 1888 in his first volume of poems, “Book of [Verses](#)^[3],” without a title. Later, the poem was reprinted in several 19th-century newspapers under various titles such as “Myself,” “Master of His Fate,” “Captain of My Soul,” and “De Profundis.” The well-known title *‘Invictus’* was added to the poem by Arthur Quiller-Couch, the editor of the “Oxford Book of English Verse (1900).”

Structure

‘Invictus,’ a Victorian poem, is made up of four [stanzas](#)^[4] and sixteen lines, with four lines in each [stanza](#)^[4]. It has a set [rhyme scheme](#)^[5] of **abab**^[6] **cdcd efef gbgb**. The poem also has a set metrical

pattern. Each line of this poem contains eight syllables, and the stress falls on the second syllable of each foot, a segment of two syllables. Hence, the poem is written in iambic [tetrameter](#)^[7]. However, there are a few variations in the poem. As an example, the first feet of the first and second lines of the poem are trochaic. It means the stress falls on "Out" and "Black" in the first and second lines, respectively. The rising [rhythm](#)^[8] of the poem sets an optimistic [mood](#)^[9] in the poem.

Literary Devices

The poem begins with a [personification](#)^[10]. Here, the poet [personifies](#)^[10] the "night" that covers the speaker in "Black." In the second line, there is a [simile](#)^[11], and the [comparison](#)^[11] is made between the darkness of night and the color of the pit. The first stanza ends with an [ironic](#)^[12] note. In the second stanza, the poet uses a [metaphor](#)^[13] in "fell clutch of circumstance." There is another [metaphor](#)^[13] in the "bludgeonings of [chance](#)^[2]."

The third stanza contains a [metonym](#)^[14] for the earth in "this place of wrath and tears." The last line of this stanza contains a [repetition](#)^[15] of the verb "find," and this poetic device is known as palilogy. The last stanza contains an [allusion](#)^[16] to a phrase present in Matthew 7:14. Moreover, in the last two lines of this stanza, Henley uses metaphor and

[epigram](#)^[17] as well.

Themes

In '*Invictus*,' W. E. Henley is concerned with several themes such as suffering and rejuvenation, fatalism, free will, homocentrism or anthropocentrism, [realism](#)^[18], and agnosticism. The most important theme of the poem is suffering and rejuvenation. Here, the speaker talks about the sufferings in his life and how he conquered everything that came his way to rampage his self-belief. The power of rejuvenation helped his mind be fresh again after getting defeated by fate. Thereafter, the poet throws light on the theme of fate vs. free will.

According to the poet, one must [act](#)^[19] by his will and mind. Fate is just an abstract idea that obstructs one's [thought process](#)^[20].

Apart from that, the theme of homocentrism is another important aspect of the poem. It deals with the belief that man is the center of the universe. The out-worldly agents have no control over one's mind or soul. Lastly, Henley wrote this poem to express his disbelief in conventional notions regarding God or fate. It is a poem [emphasizing](#)^[21] the significance of free will and rationalism. In this way, Henley successfully projected the spirit of the late Victorian period.

Tone and Mood

The overall [tone of the poem](#)^[22] is optimistic, direct, rational, and [ironic](#)^[12]. The [mood](#)^[9] of the poem is dark and gloomy. It seems as if the poet wrote this poem from the [perspective](#)^[23] of a person who is courageously fighting the odds of his or her life in a dark and upsetting phase. Moreover, the mood changes as the poem approaches the end.

The expression of the speaker creates a serious yet uplifting mood inside the text. Whereas the [tone](#)^[22] of the first stanza is ironic and firm. In the following two stanzas, the speaker's tone becomes firmer. In some respect, the tone also projects a sense of insecurity, but the courage of the speaker dominates it. In the last stanza, his [voice](#)^[24] contains a tone of rejection, and it becomes more authoritative.

Analysis, Stanza by Stanza

Stanza One

“ Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the first stanza of *'Invictus,'* the speaker immediately sets the stage for his reader. He says,

“Out of the night that covers me,/Black as the Pit from pole to pole.” Henley's use of [imagery](#)^[25] is strong from the very first line of the poem. It is quite easy for the reader to picture a complete night. In these two lines, the poet also creates a metaphor, as the night to which the speaker refers can represent any quandary in which the speaker finds himself.

Moreover, it is important here to think about the [connotations](#)^[26] of the word “night.” Since it is dark and one cannot see, it is easy for horrible things to happen, particularly when the night is “black as the Pit.” It is also curious that Henley chose to capitalize “Pit,” using a simile to compare the darkness of the night to this hole. One [reason](#)^[27] Henley may have chosen to capitalize “Pit” is to refer to Hell, which is considered to be the bleakest and blackest of places.

Thereafter, by using the phrase “from pole to pole,” the poet conjures up an image of the world, and it gives an almost nautical feel to the poem. It can be inferred, particularly when one knows the occupation of the man to whom the poem was dedicated, that our fearless speaker is perhaps a captain of a ship, particularly when he gives himself that title at the end of the poem.

In the next two lines of the first stanza, Henley writes, “I thank whatever gods may be/ For my unconquerable soul.” While the speaker does not know which Higher Beings truly exist, he takes the time to thank them for giving him a soul that cannot be conquered. Perhaps Henley's use of the word unconquerable here is what inspired the

editor of "The Oxford Book of English Verse" to title the poem '*Invictus*.'

Stanza Two

“ In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

The second stanza is a continuation of the first. Henley writes, "In the fell clutch of circumstance/ I have not winced nor cried aloud." In other words, the speaker has not allowed himself to become a victim of the events that have transpired in his life.

In these lines, Henley personifies circumstance, giving it human-like qualities to show just how tightly the events of one's life can take hold. Throughout all that he has been dealt with, the speaker has not even cringed or cried about what has happened.

He does admit, however, in the next two lines that he has not emerged unscathed. Henley writes, "Under the bludgeonings of chance/ My head is bloody, but unbowed." While he may have physical scars, he has never bowed his head in defeat; instead, he has kept it held high. Henley also employs [alliteration](#)^[28] in this stanza, repeating the "b" sound, which creates a harsh [rhythm](#)^[8] to the poem.

Stanza Three

“ Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find me unafraid.

The third stanza of '*Invictus*' takes a darker turn, for the speaker refers to an afterlife that is filled with [horror](#)^[29]. Henley writes, "Beyond this place of wrath and tears/ Looms but the [Horror](#)^[29] of the shade." The speaker seems to be saying here that he knows that what he has endured in this life is nothing compared to what lies ahead in the "shade," which is a reference to death. He again tells his reader that he does not fear anything.

Lines eleven and twelve read, "And yet the menace of the years/ Finds, and shall find, me unafraid." The speaker will remain fearless, even in the face of death and what comes after.

Stanza Four

“ It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.

The fourth stanza, while still fairly dark, is somewhat

more uplifting, particularly in the last two lines of the poem. The nautical [imagery](#)^[25] once again returns in this stanza, with the speaker referring to himself as a captain but also commenting that it does not matter how narrow the path is to the gates of the afterlife; he will make it with no problems.

Moreover, when he is being judged, no matter how many punishments are listed, he will have decided his fate, and he will have steered his course. These last two lines are considered to be some of the most famous lines in all of literature, and they are a continued source of inspiration for people from all walks of life.

These lines to '*Invictus*' are some of the most powerful and poignant lines in all of poetry, recognized around the world. To give such lines justice, we made sure to do a deeper [analysis](#)^[30] and understanding of these lines by particularly [looking at 'I am the master of my fate, / I am the captain of my soul.'](#)

Historical Context

Many scholars believe Henley wrote this poem about himself since he wrote it while lying in a hospital bed. Henley was very sick as a young boy, which later resulted in him contracting an infection that spread to his leg. The leg was amputated, and doctors thought they would have to do the same to the other leg, as well, but Henley persuaded another doctor to try a new treatment that was able

to prevent amputation. Many Victorian writers often incorporated nature into their poetry, and Henley continued this trend, which is quite evident in the lines of '*Invictus*.'

Nelson Mandela and *Invictus*

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, a South African revolutionary and President of South Africa (1994-1999), was influenced by the verbal energy and inspirational elements of Henley's poem, '*Invictus*'. When he was incarcerated at the Robben Island prison, he recited this poem to other prisoners. The message of self-mastery in this poem touched Mandela deeply. (Source: [Nelson Mandela: A Very Short Introduction](#) by Elleke Boehmer, Tom Lodge).

Nelson Mandela has been depicted in films on multiple occasions. In *Invictus* (2009), a biographical sports [drama](#)^[31] film based on John Carlin's "Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation" (2008), he was depicted presenting a copy of the poem to Francois Pienaar, captain of the national South African rugby team for inspiration during the 1995 Rugby World Cup.

Though at the actual event, Mandela gave him a text of "The Man in the Arena" passage from Theodore Roosevelt's "Citizenship in a Republic" [speech](#)^[32] delivered in France in 1910.

About William Ernest Henley

William Ernest Henley was born on 23 August 1849 in Gloucester. He was an English poet, writer, critic, and editor in the late Victorian period. He wrote several books of poetry, but he is most famous for his 1875 poem '*Invictus*.'

From the age of 12, Henley suffered from tuberculosis of the bone. The ailment resulted in the amputation of his left leg below the knee in

1868-69. In the early 1870s, he faced a similar problem with his other leg. Then, he chose to travel to Edinburgh in August 1873 for treatment under the renowned English surgeon Joseph Lister.

Fortunately, the doctor saved his remaining leg.

While he was recovering, he wrote the [verses](#)^[3] that became the poem '*Invictus*.' In 1902, Henley fell from a railway carriage, which caused his latent tuberculosis to flare up. He died of it on 11 July 1903, at the age of 53.

FAQs

What inspired William Ernest Henley to write '*Invictus*'?

Henley wrote '*Invictus*' while he was recovering from a serious illness. He endured years of physical pain and underwent a leg amputation. The poem is believed to reflect his personal resilience and defiance in the face of his own suffering.

Are there any famous references or adaptations of the poem '*Invictus*'?

The most notable reference to '*Invictus*' is its use by Nelson Mandela, the former President of South Africa. While imprisoned for 27 years, Mandela found solace and inspiration in the poem's message of personal strength.

Why is '*Invictus*' important?

This poem is important because it highlights the enduring power of the human spirit and the ability to overcome adversity. The themes explored in this poem resonate with people from various backgrounds and cultures.

What kind of language is used in 'Invictus'?

The poem uses concise yet impactful language, conveying the message in a direct and forceful manner. The poem follows a consistent and structured form, with four stanzas, each containing four lines.

Similar Poetry

Here is a list of a few poems that depict the themes present in Henley's poem, 'Invictus.' One can refer to the following poems, similar to that of Henley, for further reference.

- '[Nothing to fear but fear itself](#)' by Franklin D. Roosevelt – Roosevelt used this phrase in his inauguration [speech](#)^[32]. Through this phrase, he tried to encourage his fellow citizens to be faithful and courageous.
- '[Ulysses](#)' by Alfred Lord Tennyson – This is one of the [best Alfred Tennyson poems](#). In this poem, Tennyson talks about the courage and will of Ulysses.
- '[Power](#)' by Adrienne Rich – This one of the [best poems by Adrienne Rich](#) is about the power of the mind. It is a [eulogy](#)^[33] to the dead scientist Marie Curie.
- '[Courage](#)' by Anne Sexton – In this poem, the poet conveys the different ways in which one can show courage, ranging from the seemingly insignificant to the heroic.

You can read about the [best self-love poems here](#).

Invictus

Poetry+ Review

William Ernest Henley

This is an incredibly inspiring poem about overcoming obstacles and finding strength within oneself.

Poet:

William Ernest Henley

100/100

Henley's 'Invictus,' has become one of his most popular and enduring works. His poetry is characterized by its strong and vigorous language, rich imagery, and exploration of themes such as courage, determination, and the resilience of the human spirit. This poem holds significant importance in the realm of poetry and has resonated with readers across generations. It has been widely anthologized and referenced in various contexts, including motivational speeches, self-help literature, and popular culture.

Themes:

Identity

58/100

The poem explores the concept of identity through the assertion that the speaker remains the "master of [their] fate" and the "captain of [their] soul." It highlights the individual's agency in shaping their own destiny and the importance of maintaining a strong sense of self, even in the face of adversity.

Death

57/100

This famous piece touches upon the theme of death as the speaker confronts death and uncertainty. Rather than succumbing to fear or despair, the poem celebrates the resilience of the human spirit in the face of mortality. It presents death as an inevitable part of life's journey, urging readers to confront it with courage and an unwavering sense of self.

Journey**44/100**

This poem can be seen as a metaphorical journey, representing the struggles and challenges encountered throughout life. The poem emphasizes the importance of resilience and determination in navigating this journey, highlighting the power of the human spirit to overcome obstacles.

Emotions:**Courage****60/100**

Courage is a central theme in 'Invictus.' The poem celebrates the indomitable spirit of the speaker, who refuses to be defeated by circumstances. It highlights the importance of courage in facing life's challenges and overcoming struggles. Through its defiant and resolute tone, the poem inspires readers to find their own reservoirs of courage.

Pride**53/100**

The poem reflects a sense of pride in one's own resilience and ability to endure. The speaker asserts their unwavering resolve, refusing to bow down to the hardships they face. It portrays pride as a positive force, representing a strong sense of self and an unwillingness to be broken by external forces.

Fear**45/100**

While fear is not explicitly mentioned, the poem indirectly addresses it by showcasing the speaker's unwavering resolve in the face of adversity. By asserting control over their own fate, the speaker demonstrates a defiance of fear.

Topics:

Inspiration

62/100

This poem has served as a powerful source of inspiration for countless individuals throughout history. Its message of resilience, self-determination, and the triumph of the human will has motivated people to overcome obstacles and find strength in the face of adversity.

Darkness

57/100

The reference to the "night that covers me" in the poem alludes to darkness, both literal and metaphorical. It represents the challenges, difficulties, and moments of despair that one encounters in life. The poem's message lies in the belief that even in the darkest times, the human spirit can shine brightly and overcome the shadows.

Life Lessons

50/100

This poem imparts several valuable life lessons, emphasizing the importance of resilience, courage, and the power of the human spirit. It teaches readers to take ownership of their lives, to embrace their personal agency, and to forge their own paths despite the hardships they may encounter.

Night

42/100

The reference to the night in 'Invictus' symbolizes the challenging and difficult times in life. It represents the moments of darkness, despair, and uncertainty that individuals may face. The poem's message lies in the belief that even in the darkest night, the human spirit can find light and persevere.

Period:**19th Century****93/100**

This poem is a prime example of 19th-century poetry, characterized by its focus on individualism, introspection, and emotional intensity. It embodies the spirit of the Romantic era, emphasizing the power of the individual's will to overcome adversity and find strength within. Henley's poem captures the essence of the era's emphasis on personal expression and the exploration of deep emotions.

Form:**Quatrain****63/100**

This poem is written in a quatrain form, consisting of four-line stanzas. This structure allows for concise and impactful verses, creating a sense of rhythm and balance in the poem. It is a pretty well-known example of this poetic form.

Meter:**Iambic Tetrameter****72/100**

This meter gives 'Invictus' a bold and steady pace. The occasional substitution of a trochee at the beginning of some lines disrupts the rhythm slightly but intentionally, emphasizing key words, such as 'Black' and 'Looms.' This metrical consistency shows the speaker's control, and the small changes make the message more emotional and powerful.

Rhyme Scheme:

ABAB

79/100

Henley's use of an alternating rhyme scheme, ABAB, creates a powerful, echoing rhythm throughout *Invictus*. The rhyme scheme reinforces the speaker's steady resolve, making each stanza feel cohesive and purposeful. The repetition offers predictability, which mirrors the speaker's unshaken attitude even when confronted with fate, suffering, or death.

Nationality:

English

77/100

This poem is a notable figure in English poetry. 'Invictus' is a prime example of his poetic style and the broader tradition of English poetry. Henley's work, including this poem, showcases the use of language, emotional intensity, and exploration of universal themes. His contributions to English poetry have had a lasting impact, influencing subsequent generations of poets and readers alike. This poem is certainly one of his best pieces and one of the most famous pieces of language poetry.



William Ernest Henley

William Ernest Henley was a British critic, editor, and poet who lived in Victorian England. He is best remembered for his poem '*Invictus*' published 1875. He died in 1903 at the age of 53.

Referenced Terms from the Poetry+ Glossary

Visit poemanalysis.com/glossary/ to explore 916 glossary terms about poetry and literature.

- [1] - **Speaker-in-poetry**. The speaker in a piece of poetry is the narrator of the work. It could be the poet, an imagined character, a creature or even an object.

(Synonym: Voice)

<https://poemanalysis.com/diction/speaker-in-poetry/>

- [2] - **Serendipity**. Serendipity is the experience of finding something joyful in that which came unexpectedly.

(Synonym: Chance)

<https://poemanalysis.com/definition/serendipity/>

- [3] - **Verse**. Verse is a term that refers to various parts of poetry, such as a single line of poetry, a stanza, or the entire poem.

<https://poemanalysis.com/definition/verse/>

- [4] - **Stanza**. A stanza is one of the most important fundamental elements of a poem. It is the unit of writing poems are composed of.

<https://poemanalysis.com/literary-device/stanza/>

- [5] - **Rhyme-scheme**. The rhyme scheme is the pattern of rhyme that's used in a poem. It corresponds with the end sounds that feature in lines of verse.

<https://poemanalysis.com/definition/rhyme-scheme/>

- [6] - **Abab**. An ABAB rhyme scheme, also known as an alternating rhyme scheme, is a poetic structure where the first and third lines rhyme with each other, and the second and fourth lines rhyme with each other.
<https://poemanalysis.com/rhyme-scheme/abab/>
- [7] - **Tetrameter**. The term "tetrameter" refers to a line of poetry that includes four metrical feet. These feet may conform to various metrical forms.
<https://poemanalysis.com/poetic-meter/tetrameter/>
- [8] - **Rhythm**. Rhythm refers to the use of long and short stresses, or stressed and unstressed, within the writing.
<https://poemanalysis.com/poetic-meter/rhythm/>
- [9] - **Mood**. Mood is the feeling created by the writer for the reader. It is what happens within a reader because of the tone the writer used in the poem.
<https://poemanalysis.com/definition/mood/>
- [10] - **Personification**. Personification is a literary device that refers to the projection of human characteristics onto inanimate objects in order to create imagery.
<https://poemanalysis.com/literary-device/personification/>
- [11] - **Simile**. A simile is a comparison between two unlike things that uses the words "like" or "as".
(Synonym: Comparison)
<https://poemanalysis.com/figurative-language/simile/>
- [12] - **Irony**. Irony occurs when an outcome is different than expected. It is very possible for one situation to strike one reader as ironic and another not.
<https://poemanalysis.com/figurative-language/irony/>
- [13] - **Metaphor**. A metaphor is used to describe an object, person, situation, or action in a way that helps a reader understand it, without using "like" or "as".
<https://poemanalysis.com/figurative-language/metaphor/>
- [14] - **Metonymy**. Metonymy is a kind of figurative language that refers to a situation in which one term is substituted for another.
<https://poemanalysis.com/figurative-language/metonymy/>

- [15] - **Repetition.** Repetition is an important poetic technique that sees writers reuse words, phrases, images, or structures multiple times within a poem.
<https://poemanalysis.com/literary-device/repetition/>
- [16] - **Allusion.** An allusion is an indirect reference to, including but not limited to, an idea, event, or person. It is used within both prose and verse writing.
<https://poemanalysis.com/literary-device/allusion/>
- [17] - **Epigram.** An epigram is a short, witty, and sometimes surprising statement. It can stand-alone or be part of a novel or poem.
<https://poemanalysis.com/literary-device/epigram/>
- [18] - **Realism.** Realism is a literary movement that portrays everyday life exactly how it is.
<https://poemanalysis.com/movement/realism/>
- [19] - **Act.** An act is a primary division of a dramatic work, like a play, film, opera, or other performance. The act is made up of shorter scenes.
<https://poemanalysis.com/definition/act/>
- [20] - **Interior-monologue.** An interior monologue is a powerful tool used in poetry and literature. It is a technique that involves portraying the thoughts occurring in a character's mind.
(Synonym: Thought Process)
<https://poemanalysis.com/definition/interior-monologue/>
- [21] - **Foregrounding.** Foregrounding is a literary technique that's employed in order to draw attention to a specific part of a poem, novel, short story, or other literary work.
(Synonym: Emphasizing)
<https://poemanalysis.com/literary-device/foregrounding/>
- [22] - **Tone.** Tone tells us how the writer feels about the text, at least, to an extent. All forms of writing, aside from the academic, have a tone of some sort.
<https://poemanalysis.com/definition/tone/>
- [23] - **Perspective.** Perspective is the lens through which the reader experiences a story, film, television series, or poem.
<https://poemanalysis.com/literary-device/perspective/>

- [24] - **Voice**. Voice refers to the specific style an author writes in. This includes the way they use point of view, tone, rhetorical devices, syntax, and more.
<https://poemanalysis.com/literary-device/voice/>
- [25] - **Imagery**. Imagery refers to the elements of a poem that engage a reader's senses. These are the important sights, sounds, feelings, and smells.
<https://poemanalysis.com/figurative-language/imagery/>
- [26] - **Connotation**. A connotation is the feeling a writer creates through their word choice. It's the idea a specific word or set of words evokes.
<https://poemanalysis.com/definition/connotation/>
- [27] - **Logos**. Logos is the use of logic to create a persuasive argument in writing. Many poets and authors use it to appeal to an audience's sense of rationality.
(Synonym: Reason)
<https://poemanalysis.com/definition/logos/>
- [28] - **Alliteration**. Alliteration is a technique that makes use of repeated sounds at the beginning of multiple words. It is used in a wide range of cases, including poetry and prose.
<https://poemanalysis.com/literary-device/alliteration/>
- [29] - **Horror**. Horror is a genre of fiction that plays with human fear, feelings of terror, dread, and repulsion to entertain the audience.
<https://poemanalysis.com/genre/horror/>
- [30] - **Explication**. Explication is the intricate analysis of a poem or other works of literature. It encourages using different techniques to probe and break down complex ideas.
(Synonym: Analysis)
<https://poemanalysis.com/definition/explication/>
- [31] - **Drama**. Drama is a mode of storytelling that uses dialogue and performance. It's one of several important literary genres that authors engage with.
<https://poemanalysis.com/genre/drama/>
- [32] - **Dialogue**. Dialogue is a literary technique that is concerned with conversations held between two or more characters.
(Synonym: Speech)
<https://poemanalysis.com/literary-device/dialogue/>

[33] - **Eulogy**. A eulogy is a speech, or short piece of writing, created in honor of someone who has recently died.

<https://poemanalysis.com/definition/eulogy/>

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<https://poemanalysis.com/william-ernest-henley/invictus/>. Accessed 3 June 2025.

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