

# Module 6: The Power of the Mind in the Romantic Era

## Topic 3 Content: Poetic Devices in "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls"

### Introduction

#### Poetic Devices in "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls"

##### Introduction

Take a moment to analyze the poetic devices that Longfellow uses in his poem "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls." This poem is an extended metaphor in that the entire poem talks about tides in comparison with life and death. Click on each of the tabs to examine the many poetic devices in Longfellow's poem.

The tide rises, the tide falls,	(a)
The twilight darkens, the curlew calls;	(a)
Along the sea-sands damp and brown	(b)
The traveler hastens toward the town,	(b)
And the tide rises, the tide falls.	(a)
Darkness settles on roofs and walls,	(a)
But the sea, the sea in the darkness calls;	(a)
The little waves, with their soft, white hands,	(c)
Efface the footprints in the sands,	(c)
And the tide rises, the tide falls.	(a)
The morning breaks; the steeds in their stalls	(a)
Stamp and neigh, as the hostler calls;	(a)
The day returns, but nevermore	(d)
Returns the traveler to the shore,	(d)
And the tide rises, the tide falls.	(a)

1 2 3 4 5 6

Take a moment to analyze the poetic devices that Longfellow uses in his poem "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls." This poem is an extended metaphor in that the entire poem talks about tides in comparison with life and death. Click on each of the tabs to examine the many poetic devices in Longfellow's poem.

**Module 6: The Power of the Mind in the Romantic Era**  
**Topic 3 Content: Poetic Devices in "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls"**

**Rhyme**

**Poetic Devices in "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls"**

**Rhyme**

Notice that the rhyme scheme is aabba, aacca, aadda. The vowel sound in the word "falls" is also an example of assonance because it is repeated throughout the poem.

The tide rises, the tide <u>falls</u> ,	(a)
The twilight darkens, the curlew <u>calls</u> ;	(a)
Along the sea-sands damp and brown	(b)
The traveler hastens toward the town,	(b)
And the tide rises, the tide <u>falls</u> .	(a)
Darkness settles on roofs and <u>walls</u> ,	(a)
But the sea, the sea in the darkness <u>calls</u> ;	(a)
The little waves, with their soft, white hands,	(c)
Efface the footprints in the sands,	(c)
And the tide rises, the tide <u>falls</u> .	(a)
The morning breaks; the steeds in their <u>stalls</u>	(a)
Stamp and neigh, as the hostler <u>calls</u> ;	(a)
The day returns, but nevermore	(d)
Returns the traveler to the shore,	(d)
And the tide rises, the tide <u>falls</u> .	(a)

1 2 3 4 5 6

Notice that the rhyme scheme is aabba, aacca, aadda. The vowel sound in the word "falls" is also an example of assonance because it is repeated throughout the poem.

**Module 6: The Power of the Mind in the Romantic Era**  
**Topic 3 Content: Poetic Devices in "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls"**

**Assonance**

**Poetic Devices in "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls"**

**Assonance**

Assonance is the repetition of vowels sounds in stressed syllables. In the first line, there is assonance in the vowels of "tide" and "rises."

The <u>t</u> ide <u>r</u> ises, the <u>t</u> ide falls,	(a)
The twilight darkens, the curlew calls;	(a)
Along the sea-sands damp and brown	(b)
The traveler hastens toward the town,	(b)
And the tide rises, the tide falls.	(a)
Darkness settles on roofs and walls,	(a)
But the sea, the sea in the darkness calls;	(a)
The little waves, with their soft, white hands,	(c)
Efface the footprints in the sands,	(c)
And the tide rises, the tide falls.	(a)
The morning breaks; the steeds in their stalls	(a)
Stamp and neigh, as the hostler calls;	(a)
The day returns, but nevermore	(d)
Returns the traveler to the shore,	(d)
And the tide rises, the tide falls.	(a)

1 2 3 4 5 6

Assonance is the repetition of vowels sounds in stressed syllables. In the first line, there is assonance in the vowels of "tide" and "rises."

**Module 6: The Power of the Mind in the Romantic Era**  
**Topic 3 Content: Poetic Devices in "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls"**

**Alliteration**

**Poetic Devices in "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls"**

**Alliteration**

Alliteration is the repetition of the consonant sound at the beginning of a line. Examples of this can be found in "curlew calls," "toward the town," and "steeds in their stalls."

The tide rises, the tide falls,	(a)
The twilight darkens, the <u>curlew</u> <u>calls</u> ;	(a)
Along the sea-sands damp and brown	(b)
The traveler hastens <u>toward</u> the <u>town</u> ,	(b)
And the tide rises, the tide falls.	(a)
Darkness settles on roofs and walls,	(a)
But the sea, the sea in the darkness calls;	(a)
The little waves, with their soft, white hands,	(c)
Efface the footprints in the sands,	(c)
And the tide rises, the tide falls.	(a)
The morning breaks; the <u>steeds</u> in their <u>stalls</u>	(a)
Stamp and neigh, as the <u>hostler</u> <u>calls</u> ;	(a)
The day returns, but nevermore	(d)
Returns the traveler to the shore,	(d)
And the tide rises, the tide falls.	(a)

1 2 3 4 5 6

Alliteration is the repetition of the consonant sound at the beginning of a line. Examples of this can be found in "curlew calls," "toward the town," and "steeds in their stalls."

**Module 6: The Power of the Mind in the Romantic Era**  
**Topic 3 Content: Poetic Devices in "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls"**

**Personification**

**Poetic Devices in "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls"**

**Personification**

Personification is the giving of human qualities to a non-human subject. In this poem, the sea is personified because it calls out in the darkness. The waves are also personified because they have soft, white hands.

The tide rises, the tide falls,	(a)
The twilight darkens, the curlew calls;	(a)
Along the sea-sands damp and brown	(b)
The traveler hastens toward the town,	(b)
And the tide rises, the tide falls.	(a)
Darkness settles on roofs and walls,	(a)
But the sea, <u>the sea in the darkness calls;</u>	(a)
<u>The little waves, with their soft, white hands,</u>	(c)
Efface the footprints in the sands,	(c)
And the tide rises, the tide falls.	(a)
The morning breaks; the steeds in their stalls	(a)
Stamp and neigh, as the hostler calls;	(a)
The day returns, but nevermore	(d)
Returns the traveler to the shore,	(d)
And the tide rises, the tide falls.	(a)

1 2 3 4 5 6

Personification is the giving of human qualities to a non-human subject. In this poem, the sea is personified because it calls out in the darkness. The waves are also personified because they have soft, white hands.

**Module 6: The Power of the Mind in the Romantic Era**  
**Topic 3 Content: Poetic Devices in "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls"**

**Onomatopoeia**

**Poetic Devices in "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls"**

**Onomatopoeia**

Onomatopoeia refers to words that sound like the noise they represent. The words "stamp" and "neigh" sound like the actions of the horses.

The tide rises, the tide falls,	(a)
The twilight darkens, the curlew calls;	(a)
Along the sea-sands damp and brown	(b)
The traveler hastens toward the town,	(b)
And the tide rises, the tide falls.	(a)
Darkness settles on roofs and walls,	(a)
But the sea, the sea in the darkness calls;	(a)
The little waves, with their soft, white hands,	(c)
Efface the footprints in the sands,	(c)
And the tide rises, the tide falls.	(a)
The morning breaks; the steeds in their stalls	(a)
<u>Stamp and neigh</u> , as the hostler calls;	(a)
The day returns, but nevermore	(d)
Returns the traveler to the shore,	(d)
And the tide rises, the tide falls.	(a)

1 2 3 4 5 6

Onomatopoeia refers to words that sound like the noise they represent. The words "stamp" and "neigh" sound like the actions of the horses.

**Module 6: The Power of the Mind in the Romantic Era**  
**Topic 3 Content: Poetic Devices in "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls"**

**Repetition**

**Poetic Devices in "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls"**

**Repetition**

Longfellow uses repetition of the line "And the tide rises, the tide falls" to convey the sense of continuity that nature and life have. This line begins the poem, ends the poem, and is repeated throughout the poem just as nature is ever present from the beginning to the end of time.

The tide rises, the tide falls,	(a)
The twilight darkens, the curlew calls;	(a)
Along the sea-sands damp and brown	(b)
The traveler hastens toward the town,	(b)
<u>And the tide rises, the tide falls.</u>	(a)
Darkness settles on roofs and walls,	(a)
But the sea, the sea in the darkness calls;	(a)
The little waves, with their soft, white hands,	(c)
Efface the footprints in the sands,	(c)
<u>And the tide rises, the tide falls.</u>	(a)
The morning breaks; the steeds in their stalls	(a)
Stamp and neigh, as the hostler calls;	(a)
The day returns, but nevermore	(d)
Returns the traveler to the shore,	(d)
<u>And the tide rises, the tide falls.</u>	(a)

1 2 3 4 5 6

Longfellow uses repetition of the line "And the tide rises, the tide falls" to convey the sense of continuity that nature and life have. This line begins the poem, ends the poem, and is repeated throughout the poem just as nature is ever present from the beginning to the end of time.