

# ASSONANCE -AND- CONSONANCE

**ASSONANCE** is the repetition of vowel sounds in words that are close together. It's the sound that is important and not the letters used.

Examples: *"By twinkling twilight he sang a nice song to pass the night"* (Long i)

*"Two tulips danced to music on the wind"* (Long u)

Don't confuse assonance with alliteration. The "tw" in twinkling and twilight are alliteration because these consonant sounds are at the beginning of the words. The "t" sound in two, tulips and to is also alliteration.

**CONSONANCE** is the repetition of consonant sounds at the ends of words and that follow stressed syllables in words close together.

Examples: *"Norm, the worm, weathered the storm without harm."*

*"Errors occurred when the editor of the story slept."*

Read the poem below and circle each case of assonance or consonance.

Hint: Read the poem out loud so you can really hear the sound of the words.

## THE RAVEN

By Edgar Allan Poe

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary,

Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore—

While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,

As of someone gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.

"'Tis some visitor," I muttered, "tapping at my chamber door;

Only this and nothing more."

Assonance and consonance are often used together. Read the quotes below and figure out where assonance and/or consonance are being used. Then write down what sounds are being repeated.

**EXAMPLE:** Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn. o-Assonance

1. From the molten golden notes, \_\_\_\_\_
2. Her finger hungered for a ring. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Cupid laid by his brand. \_\_\_\_\_
4. How they clang, and clash, \_\_\_\_\_
5. and roar! What a horror they outpour. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Whose woods these are I think I know. \_\_\_\_\_
7. He saw the cost and hauled off. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Gayle tapped a finger on the sack of books in her lap.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. I sipped the rim with palatable lip. \_\_\_\_\_
10. A gallant knight, in sunshine and in shadow, \_\_\_\_\_
11. "Thou art a fool," said my head to my heart. \_\_\_\_\_
12. What a world of merriment their melody foretells!  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. It was half as funny after, when they laughed so at the staff.  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Well that was short but sweet. \_\_\_\_\_

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Assonance and consonance are often used together. Read the quotes below and figure out where assonance and/or consonance are being used. Then write down what sounds are being repeated.

**EXAMPLE:** Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn. o-Assonance

1. From the molten golden notes, (o)-A, (en)-C

2. Her finger hungered for a ring. (ng), (er)-C

3. Cupid laid by his brand. (i)-A

4. How they clang, and clash, (a)-A

5. and roar! What a horror they outpour. (or sound)-C

6. Whose woods these are I think I know. (s)-C

7. He saw the cost and hauled off. (awe sound)-A

8. Gayle tapped a finger on the sack of books in her lap.  
(a)-A

9. I sipped the rim with palatable lip. (i)-A

10. A gallant knight, in sunshine and in shadow, (a)-A

11. "Thou art a fool," said my head to my heart. (a)-A, (rt)-C

12. What a world of merriment their melody foretells!  
(r)-C

13. It was half as funny after, when they laughed so at the staff.  
(aff sound)-C

14. Well that was short but sweet. (t)-C

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