

Dover Beach

Figures of speech

Metaphor in Dover Beach:

It is a figure of speech in which a comparison between two different things is implied but not clearly stated. In this poem faith is compared to sea. Here, high tide is compared to the unbreakable faith that people had in God and religion and the ebbing of sea waves is compared to the collapsing spiritual and religious faith. The “sea of faith” that was once in its full tide is now withdrawing, leaving people alone in this dreary, cruel world.

Similes in Dover Beach:

A figure of speech in which a similarity between two different things is clearly stated, using the words ‘as’ or ‘like’, is called a simile. A beautiful representation of a simile is seen in the way religious and spiritual faith is compared to a girdle furled round the waist of a person- “ like the folds of a bright girdle furled”. Like the girdle, faith also embraced human civilization and protected it from evil aspects of the world

Alliteration in Dover Beach:

The repetition of consonant sounds in a sentence is called alliteration. It is seen in the lines : “ Ah, love, let us be true”, “To lie before us like a land of dreams”.

Allusion in Dover Beach:

It is a reference to other cultures or works in either prose or poetry. Allusions to mythology, religious epics, sacred texts and classical literature are the most common. The allusion to the ancient Greek tragedian, Sophocles, enhances the sense of melancholy and sorrow in the poem. Sophocles heard the sound of the waves on the Aegean sea that reminded him of the ebb and flow of human misery. Similarly, the speaker in the poem is also distressed by the realization of human suffering.

Anaphora in Dover Beach:

It is a figure of speech in which words or phrases are repeated in the beginning of each sentence, paragraphs or stanzas in a sequence. This figure of speech is seen in the lines : “So various, so beautiful, so new” and “ ...neither joy, nor love, nor light, / nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain”.

Pathetic Fallacy in Dover Beach: It is a figure of speech in which objects are attributed human emotions. This is observed in the poem when the continuous and endless movement of the sea waves, that sucks and flings back pebbles, is attributed with an “eternal note of sadness” that can be experienced by humans. We hope you enjoyed reading the various Figures of Speech in Dover Beach.