

POEM - Rain on the Roof

Stanza 1

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!

Word Meaning:

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.

Stanza 2

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.

Word Meaning:

tinkle: short, light ringing sound



shingles: rectangular wooden tiles used on roofs

woof: weft, i.e. the thread woven across the loom (the threads that run across — make up the fabric)

patter: the sound of raindrops falling on the roof

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

Stanza 3

Now in memory comes my mother,
As she used in years agone,
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.

Word Meaning:

agone : gone by; or in the past

ere: old poetic word for 'before'

dawn: daybreak

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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humid shadows **h**over - metaphor, alliteration
starry **s**pheres - alliteration
melancholy darkness - personification , transferred epithet
rainy tears - metaphor
press the **p**illow - alliteration
Patter - onomatopoeia

Stanza 2

Refer the link posted in Reference Link .

Stanza 3

Refer the link posted in Reference Link .

