

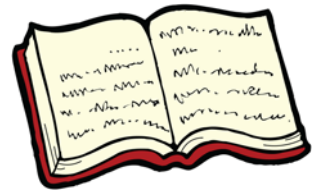
Asyndeton in Poetry

Asyndeton is a literary device in which conjunctions are omitted between phrases with no loss of grammatical accuracy. In Greek, the word means "unconnected." Asyndeton can occur between words or between phrases or sentences.

Underline the lines in each poem that contain asyndeton.

1. from "The Scholar-Gipsy" by Matthew Arnold

Go, shepherd, and untie the wattled cotes!
No longer leave thy wistful flock unfed,
Nor let thy bawling fellows rack their throats,
Nor the cropp'd herbage shoot another head...
Thou hast not lived, why should'st thou perish, so?
Thou hadst one aim, one business, one desire;
Else wert thou long since numbered with the dead...



2. from The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare

Is whispering nothing?
Is leaning cheek to cheek? is meeting noses?
Kissing with inside lip? stopping the career
Of laughter with a sigh? (a note infallible
Of breaking honesty!) horsing foot on foot?