

POEM: FIRE AND ICE

Word Meanings

- Perish: die or come to an end
- Suffice: sufficient

Fire and Ice

By Robert Frost

Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire.
But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

Analysis of Literary Devices in “Fire and Ice”

Alliteration: Alliteration is the repetition of consonant sounds in the same line such as the sound of /f/ in “I hold with those who favor fire”.

Symbolism: Symbolism is a use of symbols to signify ideas and qualities, by giving them symbolic meanings different from their literal meanings. “Fire” is the symbol of desires and “Ice” symbolizes hatred. Similarly, “green” and “gold” are the symbol of beauty and happiness.

Anaphora: It refers to the repetition of a word or expression in the first part of some verses. For example,

Personification: Personification is to give human qualities to inanimate objects. In this poem, “Fire” and “Ice” are capable of destruction. Therefore, the poet personifies fire and ice by giving them a mind which is capable of destroying almost anything.

Enjambment: It is defined as a thought or clause that does not come to an end at a line break; rather, it moves over the next line. For example,

“From what I’ve tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire.”

Emotions that can be categorized as “fire” and “ice”:

<i>Fire</i>	<i>Ice</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greed• Fury• Lust• Avarice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intolerance• Indifference• Insensitivity• Rigidity