

Australian Teacher

Literature

(Analysing Prose, Poetry etc)

*Suitable age group:
10 and older*

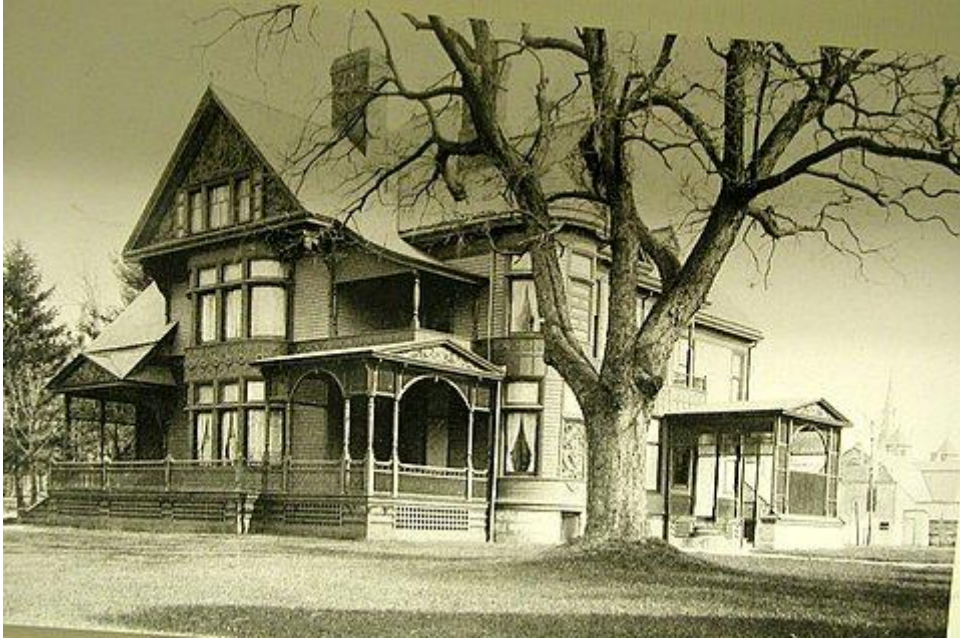


Teachers may wish to ask their students about any techniques used by the author/poet (metaphors, similes, etc.). Students could make up their own short story or poem showcasing one or more of these same techniques.

English

Tarantella

by Hilaire Belloc



Listen to Tarantella here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kttgrzt5IW0>

Do you remember an Inn, Miranda?
Do you remember an Inn?
And the tedding and the spreading
Of the straw for a bedding,
And the fleas that tease in the High Pyrenees,
And the wine that tasted of the tar?
And the cheers and the jeers of the young muleteers
Under the vine of a dark verandah?

Do you remember an Inn, Miranda,
Do you remember an Inn?
And the cheers and the jeers of the young muleteers
Who hadn't got a penny
And who weren't paying any,
And the hammer at the doors and the din?

Continued next page

And the Hip! Hop! Hap!
Of the clap
Of the hands of the twirl and the swirl
Of the girls gone chancing,
Glancing,
Dancing,
Backing and advancing,
Snapping of a clapper to the spin
Out and in –
And the Ting, Tong, Tang, of the Guitar.

Do you remember an Inn, Miranda?
Do you remember an Inn?
Never more, Miranda,
Never more.
Only the high peaks hoar
And Aragon a torrent at the door.
No sound
In the walls of the Halls where falls
The tread
Of the feet of the dead to the ground
No sound
But the boom
Of the Waterfall
Like Doom.

Talk about or Write about

1. What is Tarantella about?
2. How is the poem similar to other poems?
3. How is it different?
4. Both rhyme and rhythm are strong features of Tarantella. What is the difference between rhyme and rhythm?
5. Choosing two or three lines from the poem show by finger-tapping or hand-clapping how Hillaire Belloc varies the rhythm.

