patterns—narrative, dramatic, descriptive, imitative, or reflective—may help writers organize and develop their ideas. A consciousness of purpose and effect can help the reader see how a poem proceeds toward its goal. And seeing how a poem is organized is, in turn, often a good way of seeing where it is going and what its real concerns and purposes may be. Often a poem's organization helps to clarify the particular effects that the poet wishes to generate. In a good poem, means and ends are closely related, and a reader who is a good observer of one will be rewarded with the other.

ANONYMOUS

_Sir Patrick Spens_

The king sits in Dumferling toune,9
Drinking the blude-reid wine:
"O what will I get guid sailor,
To sail this ship of mine?"

5 Up and spake an eldern knicht,
Sat at the king's richt knee:
"Sir Patrick Spens is the best sailor
That sails upon the sea."

The king has written a braid letter
And signed it wi' his hand,
And sent it to Sir Patrick Spens,
Was walking on the sand.

The first line that Sir Patrick read,
A loud laugh lauched he;

15 The next line that Sir Patrick read,
The tear blinded his eye.
"O wha is this has done this deed,
This il deed done to me,
To send me out this time o' the year,
To sail upon the sea?

"Make haste, make haste, my merry men all,
Our guid ship sails the morn."
"O say na sae, my master dear,
For I fear a deadly storm.

25 "Late, late yestre'en I saw the new moon
Wi' the auld moon in her arm,
And I fear, I fear, my dear master,
That we will come to harm."

O our Scots nobles were richt laith
30 To weet their cork-heeled shoon,
But lang owre a' the play were played
Their hats they swam aboon.

O lang, lang, may their ladies sit,
Wi' their fans into their hand,
35 Or ere they see Sir Patrick Spens
Come sailing to the land.

O lang, lang, may the ladies stand
Wi' their gold kems in their hair,
Waiting for their ain dear lords,
40 For they'll see them na mair.

Half o'er, half o'er to Aberdour
It's fifty fadom deep,
And there lies guid Sir Patrick Spens
Wi' the Scots lords at his feet.

probably 13th century

- What event is hinted at in line 32 (“Their hats they swam aboon”) and in the poem's final stanza? What is the effect of depicting the poem's principal action indirectly?

JAMES WRIGHT

Arrangements with Earth for Three Dead Friens

Sweet earth, he ran and changed his shoes to go
Outside with other children through the fields.
He panted up the hills and swung from trees
Wild as a beast but for the human laughter

5 That tumbled like a cider down his cheeks.
Sweet earth, the summer has been gone for weeks,
And weary fish already sleeping under water
Below the banks where early acorns freeze.
Receive his flesh and keep it cured of colds.

10 Button his coat and scarf his throat from snow.

And now, bright earth, this other is out of place
In what, awake, we speak about as tombs.
He sang in houses when the birds were still
And friends of his were huddled round till dawn

15 After the many nights to hear him sing

6. Right loath—very reluctant.
7. To wet their cork-heeled shoes. Cork was expensive, and therefore, such shoes were a mark of wealth and status.
8. Before all.
9. Their hats swam above them.
10. Combs.
11. Own.