Imagery is language that appeals to our senses and inspires us to imagine something specific. Imagery can inspire us to visualize something or imagine sounds, movements, or feelings. You might recognize imagery in everyday language: when you have 'ants in your pants' or 'butterflies in your stomach' or 'a song in your heart,' you're experiencing, and perhaps even feeling, imagery.

What's Imagery?

No Right Answer

Because imagery inspires a response in you, there's no right way to interpret it. As you explore some of the imagery below, be curious about what you discover and about what these discoveries mean to you.

THE IMAGES

Here are some of our favourite images from Shakespeare's plays. Find the ones that interest you and let your imagination wander as you explore them.

My heart dances
My spirits are nimble
My soul is in the sky
Your mind is tossing on the ocean
Look how well my garments sit upon me
I'll stop mine ears against the mermaid's song
I can swim like a duck, I'll be sworn
Under love's heavy burden do I sink

Let the sound of music creep in our ears
These are but wild and whirling words
If music be the food of love, play on
So shines a good deed in a naughty world
I am the drudge and toil in your delight
I am a feather for each wind that blows
'Tis wonder that enwraps me thus
O, the thorns we stand upon
ACTIVITY: MAKE IT YOURS

Now it’s your turn! Follow the steps below as you explore Shakespeare’s images and make them your own.

Step 1: Choose an image from the selection above that interests you.

Step 2: Express the image using your voice and/or your body.

Step 3: Find the meaning.
- Start by looking up any words you don’t know in a dictionary.
- What does the image mean if you take it literally? What is your interpretation?
- Could the image represent something else? How does it make you feel?

Step 4: Make it yours. Choose one (or a combination) of the activities on the next page to guide you.

Step 5: Share your work! Ask a family member to take a photo/video of what you’ve made. Share it with Bard on the Beach by using the hashtag #BardEducation

MOVE

Create a dance or movement piece inspired by the image.

Make a sculpture or statue using your body that embodies the image.

MAKE

Take a photo, using the image as your caption.

Make a sculpture inspired by the image.

Draw or paint something inspired by the image.

Make a still life inspired by the image using objects near you.

LISTEN

Find a song that reminds you of the image. Play a recording of the song or play it yourself on an instrument.

Make a playlist of songs that remind you of the image.

WRITE

Write a poem or story using the image as your title or your initial inspiration.

Find the full Imagery Explorer and more Discovery Zone resources at https://bardonthebeach.org/education/discoveryzone/