

Thomas and Frost both write about birds. Compare and Contrast two poems, one by each poet, taking into account of the methods (the form, structure, language, including imagery and tones) which each poet uses to write about birds.

In both "Oven Bird" and "The Owl", Frost writes about 'birds'. In both poems, the birds are symbolic of a messenger to both the speakers. However, while "Oven bird" is personified as he brings his message of a song to all that can hear, "The Owl" also brings a message, but a "cry" focuses on a negative message of the hardship and suffering of men who are less fortunate. The bird in "Oven Bird" brings the positive message of the change of seasons which represents the passage of time and the change it brings about. Spring makes way for summer which makes way for autumn, which is then replaced by winter. The bird's message is therefore a metaphorical representation of the different phases of our life. The spring is comparable to our youth when the leaves are growing, the summer to our adulthood when man is like a tree and its leaves is in his prime. Autumn represents the old age and final stages of life approaching while winter signifies death. Therefore the bird prepares us for autumn through his message and makes the speaker reflect on what he will do with his life. In contrast, in "The owl" the bird brings the speaker a message that he is not alone in his suffering and there are people worse off than him, igniting contemplation in the speaker that there are people who are less fortunate and don't have shelter from the elements.

Both "Oven Bird" and "The Owl" have explicit titles, which simultaneously tell the reader the subject of the poem, and highlight the significance of the 'birds'. In "The Owl" the focus on the bird from the outset ties significance to the creature and it acts as an individual who brings him a message that he is not alone in his suffering, and in fact there are people who are a lot worse off than him. The "Owl" is recognised as a wise creature and also an omen of death. This could symbolise the owl's message of suffering and hardship which makes the speaker reflective of the wider world, therefore the selection of "The Owl" is significant. Similarly, in "Oven Bird" the title highlights the significant role of the bird, which is traditionally a small American songbird, therefore foreshadowing it will bring a positive message to the speaker. The use of personification elevates the "Oven Bird" to a higher and more significant value as its communication is important. The elongated vowel sounds of "There is a singer everyone has heard" emulates the spreading of this message as it spreads across the air. The frequency of the song and the amount of people who have heard it is significant as it highlights how difficult it is to escape from the reality of life as change is a natural occurrence and ties to the transience of the natural world which is hinted at the outset.

"The Owl" is written in four quatrains and has a regular rhyme scheme to symbolise that suffering is widespread and constant. Even though the speaker has found shelter and food, the feeling of hardship grows in him to recognise worldwide suffering, especially at a time of war and the destruction caused due to it. The regular iambic pentameter employed throughout mimics the footsteps of the speaker as he is not just on a literal journey, but also an emotional journey to recognise that suffering is worldwide. Even though one individual finds shelter, the suffering is continuous and endless for others. In contrast, "Oven Bird" is a fixed sonnet with 14 lines mirroring that the seasons are fixed and changes are a natural