



▲ Word choice in poetry is often used to create vivid impressions; in this case, 'stove-length sticks of wood'.

Think about the way in which Frost makes use of the quotation from *Macbeth* and in particular why the reference to death as life's 'brief candle' going out might apply particularly to the situation that Frost describes in the poem. Frost generally uses straightforward vocabulary, but 'Out, Out—' contains some difficult phrases. These are listed in the following table. Copy and complete the table with explanations of these difficult phrases to develop your understanding of the poem.

▼ LANGUAGE	▼ EXPLANATION
'stove-length sticks of wood'	Logs the right size to put in a wood-burning stove.
'As it ran light'	When it ran freely because it was not cutting anything difficult.
'As if to prove saws knew what supper meant'	
'Neither refused the meeting'	
'put him in the dark of ether'	
'the watcher at his pulse took fright'	
'No more to build on there'	

EXPLORING LANGUAGE

Word choice in poetry is often used to create vivid impressions. Frost uses a wide range of techniques to create striking images, build atmosphere and engage the reader. By analysing the language features used, it is possible to explore Frost's writing style and appreciate the ways in which he adds depth to the narrative within the poem. Copy and complete the following table, finding examples of each of the techniques and saying what you think the effect is.

▼ LANGUAGE TECHNIQUE	▼ EXAMPLE	▼ EFFECT
Personification	'The buzz saw snarled and rattled'	Makes the machine seem like a savage beast.
Onomatopoeia		
Alliteration		
Oxymoron		
Direct speech		
Repetition		
Short sentence		
Idiom		
Pathos		
Dissonance		
Colloquialism		