

all men are created equal A quotation from the US Declaration of Independence, written just before the start of the war against Great Britain.

Georgia Southern American slave-owning state before the American Civil War.

colour of their skin but by the content of their character Note the alliteration of the sound /k/ five times.

let freedom ring Part of a patriotic American song.

New York New York State, which is very large.

Alleghenies A range of hills.

the old Negro spiritual A traditional hymn-like song of the Afro-Caribbeans, many of which originated during the era of slavery.

KEY POINT

Look at the way an author has used the technical devices of language to persuade the reader of a certain viewpoint.

HINT

Although you will be given credit for knowing and identifying techniques, many more marks go to good explanations of their **effects** and of **why they are used**, than to mere technique-spotting.

SUBJECT VOCABULARY

alliteration the use of several words together that begin with the same sound or letter

onomatopoeia where a word sounds like the noise it makes

simile a description that says that an object is *like* an image

metaphor describing something by comparing it to an image which it resembles, in a way that says the object *is* the image

personification when something which is not human is made to sound human by attributing human qualities to it

emotive language language that produces an emotional reaction

▼ 'I HAVE A DREAM', BY MARTIN LUTHER KING AT WASHINGTON DC, AUGUST 1963

I have a dream...

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that **all men are created equal**.'

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of **Georgia**, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the **colour of their skin but by the content of their character**.

I have a dream today!

And this will be the day – this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning:

My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.

Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrim's pride,

From every mountainside, **let freedom ring!**

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

And so let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire.

Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of **New York**.

Let freedom ring from the heightening **Alleghenies** of Pennsylvania.

Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi.

From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of **the old Negro spiritual**:

Free at last! Free at last!

Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!

The art of persuasive writing and speaking is called **rhetoric**. Rhetorical devices include many techniques used in poetry, since they can make all kinds of writing more memorable. These techniques include **alliteration**, **onomatopoeia**, figurative language (**similes**, **metaphors** and **personification**), **emotive language** and word choices.