

How have writers used language creatively and imaginatively for a range of purposes?

Share an aesthetic vision – The Lady of Shalott (AL Tennyson)

Within Tennyson's ballad poem *The Lady of Shalott*, the poet is creating a rich, imaginative world in order to share an aesthetic vision with his readers. He describes in vibrant images, the lady, working at her craft in her island castle, cursed to never look at or engage with the society that exists around her. Tennyson is creating this image for the reader to consider the experiences and work of an artist, and their burden of creating their art. The artist "hath no time to sport and play" because they are constantly engaged in their pursuits. And in the midst of their creating, they dare not stop lest "what the curse may be" falls on them and no longer create. Tennyson, therefore is using the extended metaphor of the lady isolated in her island castle to explain to the reader his views on art and aestheticism.