

Synecdoche

Synecdoche: A figure of speech where a part represents a whole. For example ABC's for Alphabet.

Poem Example:

Observe the use of synecdoche in the following lines from "The Secret Sharer" by Joseph Conrad:

"At midnight I went on deck, and to my mate's great surprise put the ship round on the other tack. His terrible whiskers flitted round me in silent criticism."

The word "whiskers" mentioned in the above lines refers to the whole face of the narrator's mate.

Jonathon Swift in "The description of the Morning" uses synecdoche:

"Prepar'd to scrub the entry and the stairs.
The youth with broomy stumps began to trace."

In the above lines the phrase "broomy stumps" refers to the whole broom.

Note the use of synecdoche in "The Lady or the Tiger?" by Frank R. Stockton:

"His eye met hers as she sat there paler and whiter than anyone in the vast ocean of anxious faces about her."

"Faces" refers to the whole persons.