

## What I Visualize in *Symphony in Yellow*

### **Introduction**

Maybe because I am a Mandarin speaker, my sensitivity of English is not so good. However, when I read this poem, I felt its beauty so deeply. It was my first time to have strong feelings towards a poem; thus, I chose this topic to express what I felt. It is hard to illustrate with words, so I will explain my deep feelings through drawings.

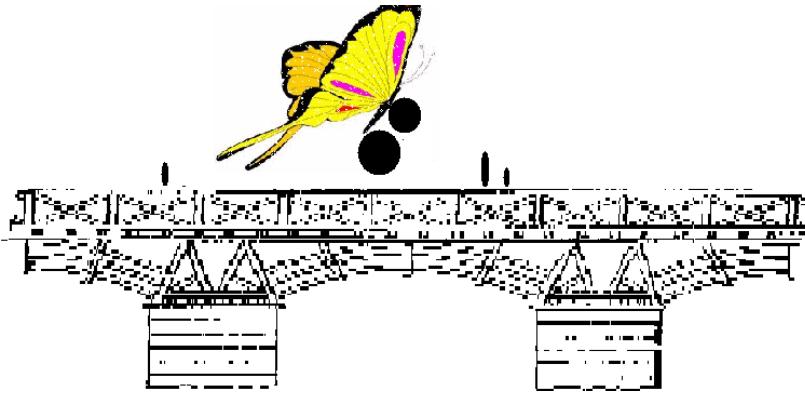
### **My Imagination**

**An omnibus across the bridge**

**Crawls like a yellow butterfly,**

**And, here and there, a passerby**

**Shows like a little restless midge.**

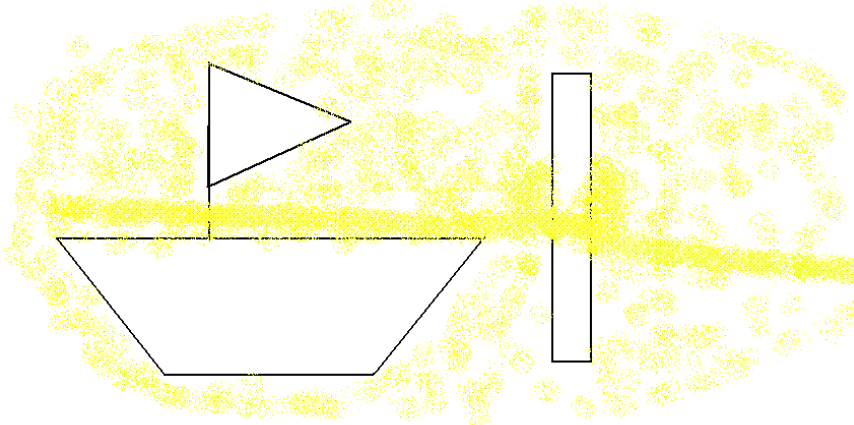


**Big barges full of yellow hay**

**Are moored against the shadowy wharf,**

**And, like a yellow silken scarf,**

**The thick fog hangs along the quay.**



**The yellow leaves begin to fade  
And flutter from the Temple elms,  
And at my feet the pale green Thames  
Lies like a rod of rippled jade.**



### **Analyses**

At first, the title: *Symphony in Yellow* was attractive to me because yellow is my favorite color, and I was wondering how the color yellow and a symphony connect to each other; yellow is a color and can be seen, but a symphony is music to be heard. This poem uses a lot of similes to make readers feel that they see the scenes with their own eyes. By making connections to things that are usual to see, it can be easier for readers to visualize the scenes. After reading it, I can not forget what I read and what I saw in my mind; it is a fresh expressing method for me.

When I read the first stanza, a yellow butterfly with two tires appeared in my mind. The butterfly above a bridge with a gloomy color was surrounded by tiny people, who were just a line in the scene. It is a totally new idea for me to connect a bus to a butterfly and connect persons to a midge. I have not thought like this until I read the poem; nevertheless, the scene is common to see, but few people can see it through the poet's beautiful eyes. With the eyes, the scene of hustle and bustle turned to be fantastic just like in a world of fairy tales. In addition, passersby as midges show that humans are small in front of such a big bus, bridge, and world.

The second scene is special to me because I do not often see ocean scenes; however, the most special is that the poet depicts the misty scene with the yellow color. This is my favorite part: The mist became a yellow silken scarf and swung with

wind. It is so romantic that I read again and again. The reason that I love this stanza is due to not only its romantic atmosphere but also the extraordinary simile. They complemented each other—the fabulous simile makes the atmosphere romantic; without the romantic feelings, the simile could not impress the readers.

The atmosphere in the third stanza, unlike the second stanza, is melancholy, usually felt in autumn. I felt it when I “saw” the yellow leaves fall down to the ground. It was just like the autumn came, and I stood in such a cool wind, seeing the yellow leaves falling down; nonetheless, when I saw the river nearside by accident, I felt so surprised because the melancholic feeling was fading; the beauty of the river stunned me and made the melancholy disappear. While looking at the green-jade-like river, I felt calm and was not depressed anymore.

While reading the poem, I imagined myself to be the person, appearing in the third stanza. In the beginning, I looked up and saw the bus, which was like a yellow butterfly; I also saw a person, like a midge, near the yellow butterfly. Next, I watched the ocean far away and noticed that a boat with hay made the misty scene yellow. The most marvelous scene was that the yellow mist was like a silken scarf, swinging with the wind. “How romantic it is!” I thought to myself. A leaf fell down on my shoulder; I took note of it and saw so many yellow leaves falling down. I suddenly felt a little depressed, but I felt surprised when I saw the green-jade-like river accidentally. All of my low spirits disappeared. Most importantly, the three yellow scenes, like a symphony, kept singing in my mind.