Delia Owens' novel Where the Crawdads Sing was published in 2018. Through the use of nature symbolism and figurative language, Owens represents the marsh as a harsh, unforgiving sanctuary for those who overcome its environmental dangers, as the marsh is presented as having an abundance in fauna and flora. In the extract, the marsh is depicted as having both "Miles of blade-grass so tough it grew in salt-water" and "Layers of life-squiggly sand crabs, mud-waddling crayfish, waterfoul... ". By conveying these animals as symbols of fauna, Owens emphasises the marsh's deep connection with nature and highlights the vast number of the marsh's natural inhabitants. Similarly, the survivors of the marsh's natural hazards are described as "The ones malaria didn't kill or the swamp didn't swallow". This further showcases how dangerous the marsh is as a result of nature growing without human interference. Thus, by utilizing nature symbolism, Owens represents the marsh as a naturally hostile realm towards humanity, highlighting the marsh as preserved from human influence.

Furthermore, figurative language is used to portray the marsh as an emotionless and cold, with a sense of superiority and control over its inhabitants. In the text, the winds of the marsh are represented as able to wreck ships "like paper hats". By using this simile, Owens empowers the marsh while conveying a lack of emotion for the lives of its visitors. Likewise, personification is used by describing "Salt air and gull-song" as having "drifted through the trees from the sea". This use of figurative language emphasises the coldness of the marsh, by conveying salt air as omnipresent throughout the marsh. In doing so, Owens gives life to a desensitized and emotionless element of nature, placing emphasis on its cold and suffocating nature. Hence, through the use of nature symbolism and figurative language, Owens presents to readers a cold representation of the marsh, however conveys to readers the core fundamentals of nature as unforgiving and heartless to all beings, human or not.