The strategic use of alliteration in "Slow Through the Dark" by Paul Laurence Dunbar significantly enhances the poem's mood and rhythm. Dunbar's repetition of consonant sounds, such as in the line "The heavy heart harbors," establishes a somber tone that mirrors the speaker's emotional struggle. This technique imbues the poem with a musical quality, as the repeated 'h' sound creates a hushed resonance, underscoring the theme of perseverance. Furthermore, the alliteration in "dark and dreary days" accentuates the oppressive atmosphere, drawing the reader into the speaker's world of adversity. According to scholarly analyses, such sound patterns in Dunbar's work serve not only to embellish his verses but also to deepen the reader's emotional engagement, as seen in the broader context of his poetic oeuvre (Lee et al., 2020).