

What's expected, used, overused

“An easy thing to grab”

Unless it's intentionally used, there's nothing unexpected, nothing unusual

It's a catchphrase that's used in everyday language that we hear over and over again

When it's used in poetry, unless it's used for a purpose and there's a path to it and a reason for it, it feels like you're repeating something that is in the everyday language

They have weight of the already-read

Packs a punch that everybody relates to

“Oh my God, that's me”

Cliches mess with rhythm

Hitting a walnut in a chocolate chip cookie

It was a dark and stormy night.

A suspected burglary in a brick mansion.

There was a rap at the door. The dog howled plaintively. There was an eerie silence.

The knocker slapped the oak door. The wolfhound woke barking and leapt at the **sound**. Brass on brass, claws on wood, and hoarse, ceaseless barking mingled, piercing the calm of the foyer.

Suddenly, the bay window shattered into a million pieces.

Maxine awoke with a start, bolt upright. She jumped out of bed, her heart caught in her throat. “Who’s there?” she cried as she shook like a leaf with fear.

She tiptoed down the stairs, each moment longer than the last. There, in the silvery moonlight, was Patrick, her butler, weaving uncertainly from side to side—drunk as a skunk. Behind him, the wind howled, rapping the tattered wood of the broken pane. The moment stretched on for what felt like ages. “My morning joe, please, madam,” he slurred. Then, he keeled over like a mighty oak.

Fierce banging

A rap at the door echoed through the foyer.

The massive front door shook

A **gentle tap**

Brass, door knocker, heavy, hummer, solid-core wooden door, thunderous, clunk, echo into the foyer, clank

A clunk echoed into the foyer.

The door clunked into the foyer.

A clunk on the door echoed into the foyer.

A brass clunk on the door spilled into the foyer.

A brass clunk on the door spilled into the foyer. **heavy-handed**

Drew howls

Brass clunked on brass

A **hand** smashed the knocker on the door.

At night (dark; stormy)

The **harsh sound** brass knocker rang into the foyer.

In the foyer, the sound of brass on brass

The clunk of the brass knocker penetrated the foyer. The wolfhound woke barking and leapt at the door.

Startled, the sleeping wolfhound **started howling**.

Ears perk up

Comes up on forelegs

Jump **on all fours** and look at the door

The wolfhound woke and leapt at the door, **doing his protective duty**

The wolfhound woke barking and leapt at the door.

Jump to its feet, look at the door, and snarled at the door.

There was an eerie silence.

—died down

The clunk of the brass knocker penetrated the foyer. The wolfhound woke barking and leapt at the door. The combination of brass on brass, claws on wood, and hoarse and ceaseless barking mingled in the previously quiet foyer.

The clunk of the brass knocker penetrated the foyer. The wolfhound woke barking and leapt at the door. The combination/coupling of brass on brass, claws on wood, and hoarse, ceaseless barking mingled in the previously quiet foyer.

The clunk of the brass knocker penetrated the **foyer**. The wolfhound woke barking and leapt at the door. Brass on brass, claws on wood, and hoarse, ceaseless barking mingled to echo through the quiet of the mansion.

The clunk of the brass knocker penetrated the **foyer**. The wolfhound woke barking and leapt at the door. Brass on brass, claws on wood, and hoarse, ceaseless barking mingled, echoing through the quiet of the mansion.

The clunk of the brass knocker penetrated the **foyer**. The wolfhound woke barking and leapt at the door. Brass on brass, claws on wood, and hoarse, ceaseless barking mingled, echoing through the dark of the mansion.

The door knocker **hammered** penetrated the **foyer**. The wolfhound woke barking and leapt at the door. Brass on brass, claws on wood, and hoarse, ceaseless barking mingled, echoing through the calm of the mansion.

The knocker slapped the oak door. The wolfhound woke barking and leapt at the sound. Brass on brass, claws on wood, and hoarse, ceaseless barking mingled, piercing the calm of the foyer.

The knocker clapped the **oak door**. The wolfhound woke barking and leapt at the door. Brass on brass, claws on wood, and hoarse, ceaseless barking mingled, piercing the calm of the foyer.

The clunk of the brass knocker penetrated the foyer. The wolfhound woke barking and leapt at the door. Otherwise silent mansion, echoed, **walls shake**, overpowering the sound of the knocker/louder than the knocker/**drowning out** the knocker, **Barking madly, teeth bared, barking its fool head off, barking like crazy, overgrown shrubbery** in the front, dog stops when knocking stops

The dog's body was shaking, was shuddering,
He was persisting,
His persistent bark,
The continued knocking mixed with the barking for a time
Brass on brass
The combination of brass on brass and claws on wood, noise from the outside, noise from the inside, ___ [disrupt quiet atmosphere]
Mingled in the quiet of the foyer
At each clunk, the dog **erupted**

The combination of brass on brass, claws against wood, and the dog's **hoarse barking** ceaseless barking mingled in the **erstwhile quiet** of the foyer

The combination of brass on brass, claws on wood, and hoarse and ceaseless barking mingled in the previously quiet foyer.

Into this... The atmosphere shifted...

Suddenly, all hell broke loose.

There was **a rap at the door**. The dog howled plaintively. There was an eerie silence. Suddenly, the bay window shattered into a million pieces.