

imagery: words that help a reader picture or sense what is being described. Imagery usually falls into one of the following five categories: visual (sight), aural (sound), olfactory (smell), gustatory (taste), or tactile (touch).

“Sound” –Jim Harrison

At dawn I squat on the garage  
with snuff under a lip  
to sweeten the roofing nails—  
my shoes and pant cuffs  
are wet with dew.  
In the orchard the peach trees  
sway with the loud  
weight of birds, green fruit, yellow haze.  
And my hammer—the cold head taps,  
then swings its first full arc;  
the sound echoes against the barn,  
muffled in the loft,  
and out the other side, then lost  
in the noise of the birds  
as they burst from the trees.

1. Which of the senses does Harrison’s poem appeal to? Provide specific examples from the poem to make your case.
2. What is unusual about the expression, “the loud weight of birds”? Is this an effective image? Explain your opinion.