The Power of Music

THEMES

1.) **Music as a divine gift vs harmful noise:**

Traditionally, music is celebrated as a divine gift capable of touching the heart and soul. In the poem, however, this notion is subverted. The music of Bhisma Lochan Sharma, instead of being a source of joy, is portrayed as an overpowering and unbearable noise. This shift highlights how a gift, when distorted or misused, can transform into something bad.

2.) **Exaggeration and hyperbole:**

Ray employs exaggeration and hyperbole to illustrate the impact of Bhisma Lochan's music. The poet describes extreme reactions from both people and nature. The hyperbolic portrayal serves to underscore the severity of the disruption caused by Sharma's music and satirises the concept of music gone awry.

3.) **The role of the goat:**

The billy goat's intervention introduces a form of poetic justice. It represents a more pragmatic solution to the problem of Bhisma Lochan's music. By counteracting the disruptive noise with its own bellowing and aggression, the goat restores silence. This action highlights the idea that sometimes drastic measures are needed to counteract an overwhelming force.

NARRATIVE STYLE

- **Tone and atmosphere:**

The tone of the poem is light-hearted and satirical. Ray uses humour and exaggeration to critique the disruptive nature of Bhisma Lochan Sharma's singing. The atmosphere is chaotic, with the poem painting a picture of mayhem caused by the relentless and overwhelming sound.

- **Rhythm and rhyme scheme:**

Ray uses a consistent rhyme scheme and rhythmic pattern throughout the poem, which enhances its lyrical quality and playful tone. The poem follows an AABB rhyme scheme in each stanza. This rhythmic quality also mirrors the musical theme of the poem, making the narrative style itself a reflection of the subject matter.

- **Humour and satire:**

The narrative style is rich in humour and satire. The exaggerated reactions of the people and animals are portrayed in a way that is both amusing and critical. The character of Bhisma Lochan is depicted as oblivious to the chaos he causes, which satirises the idea of self-important artists who are so absorbed in their own talent that they ignore its impact on others.