



Christmas Carol Language Analysis

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star

What do the geographic details suggest about the kings' journey?

[Chorus]
O star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

What is the light referred to in the chorus?
Is it symbolic of anything else?

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King for ever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign

[Chorus]

Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising
Worship Him, God most high

What is the effect of the first-person narrative?
Are we given a sense of different narrators?

Extension

Which other language features stand out and why?