

In Daniel Beaty's poem "**Knock Knock**," the **repetition of "knock, knock"** serves several important **purposes** and creates a powerful **emotional effect**:

### **Purpose of the Repetition:**

#### **1. Symbolism of Absence and Longing:**

- The phrase "knock, knock" originally represents the father's presence — a daily ritual of knocking on the boy's door to connect with him.
- When the knocking stops (after the father is imprisoned), the repetition becomes a symbol of absence, loss, and unanswered hopes.

#### **2. Childlike Innocence and Routine:**

- Repeating "knock, knock" mimics the rhythm and simplicity of a child's voice and routine, which heightens the contrast between childhood innocence and the trauma of abandonment.

#### **3. Call and Response Structure:**

- The repetition creates a structure similar to a call-and-response, inviting engagement and emphasizing the broken communication between father and son.

#### **4. Emphasis and Dramatic Impact:**

- It draws attention to the key emotional pivot in the poem: the shift from connection to separation. It also builds rhythm and intensity as the poem progresses.

### **Effect of the Repetition:**

#### **1. Emotional Resonance:**

- Each repetition reinforces the speaker's longing and unanswered questions, making the reader feel the depth of his grief and confusion.

#### **2. Sense of Time Passing:**

- As the "knock, knock" continues throughout the poem, it echoes through different stages of the speaker's life — from childhood to adulthood — showing the enduring impact of the father's absence.

#### **3. Transformation:**

- Eventually, the "knock, knock" changes meaning. It becomes a metaphor for the speaker's self-discovery and resilience, as he learns to "knock" on doors of opportunity for himself and break the cycle of abandonment.

### **In Summary:**

The "**knock, knock**" repetition in Daniel Beaty's poem is both a **literal memory** and a **symbolic motif**. It conveys the **pain of a lost relationship**, the **longing for paternal guidance**, and ultimately, the **empowerment found in self-reliance**. Its rhythmic recurrence deepens the poem's emotional impact and underscores its central themes of **loss, growth, and transformation**.