

Poetry Vocabulary



Form:

Definition:

- The structure and organization of a poem.

Alliteration:

Definition:

- The repetition of consonant sounds in words that are close together.

•Example:

- Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. How many pickled peppers did Peter Piper pick?

Assonance:

Definition:

- The repetition of vowel sounds in words that are close together.

•Example:

- And so, all the night-ide, I lie down by the side

Of my darling, my darling, my life and my bride.

-Edgar Allen Poe, from “Annabel Lee”

End rhyme:

Definition:

- Rhymes at the ends of lines.

- Example:

– “I have to speak-I must-I should

-I ought...

I'd tell you how I love you if I thought

The world would end tomorrow afternoon.

But short of that...well, it might be
too soon.”

The end rhymes are ought, thought and
afternoon, soon.

Figurative language:

Definition:

- An expressive use of language.
- Example:
 - Simile
 - Metaphor

Imagery:

Definition:

- Language that appeals to the seven senses.
- Example:
 - “Mrs. Flowers”

Internal rhyme:

Definition:

- Rhymes within lines.
- Example:
 - “Back into the chamber turning, all my soul
Within me burning.
-Edgar Allen Poe, from “The Raven”

Line:

Definition:

- A series of words written, printed, or recited as one of the component's units of a larger piece of writing, such as a poem.

Metaphor:

Definition:

- An imaginative comparison between two unlike things in which one thing is said to be another thing.
 - Not a simile: metaphors do not use the words “like” and “as”
- Example:
 - Jonny has a heart of stone.

Narrative poem:

Definition:

- A poem that tells a story.
 - Not an epic: Epics have superhuman or extraordinary happenings, narratives do not.
- Example:
 - “Paul Revere’s Ride”

Onomatopoeia:

Definition:

- Using words whose sounds suggest their meaning.
- Example:
 - Buzz
 - Rustle
 - Tinkle
 - Thud

Repetition:

Definition:

- Repeating a word, phrase, line, or stanza multiple times within the poem.
- Example:
 - “Go Down, Moses” chorus

Rhyme scheme:

Definition:

- The pattern of end rhymes in a poem. You can identify this by using different letters of the alphabet for each rhyme.
- Example:
 - “A gentleman dining at Crewe, (a)
Found quite a large mouse in his stew (a)
Said the waiter, “Don’t shout, (b)
And wave it about, (b)
Or the rest will be wanting one too!” (a)
 - The Rhyme scheme of this limerick is aabba.

Rhyme:

Definition:

- The repetition of accented vowel sounds and all sounds following them in words that are close together in a poem.

Rhythm:

Definition:

- A musical quality produced by the repetition of stressed and unstressed syllables or by the repetition of other certain sound patterns.
- Example:
 - “The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.
-Lord Byron, from “The Destruction of Sennacherib”

Simile:

Definition:

- A comparison between two unlike things, using a word such as *like*, *as*, *than*, or *resembles*.
- Example:
 - Her face was as round as a pumpkin.
 - The wind is roaring like a banshee.

Stanza:

Definition:

- A group of consecutive lines in a poem that form a single unit. It is comparable to a paragraph in an essay.