

Poetic terms you should use when discussing poetry

BOLD items are sound elements *Italicized* are structural

- 📍 **Alliteration - Initial consonant sound repeating in proximity**
- 📍 Allusion - Indirect reference to a well known person, place, thing, or character
- 📍 Ambiguity - >1 meaning
- 📍 Analogy - Relationship comparison
- 📍 **Assonance - Repetition of vowel sounds**
- 📍 Audience - Those for whom a work is intended: different audiences = different approaches
- 📍 Author's Purpose - Inform, entertain, persuade, express— may not be same as reader's understanding
- 📍 *Blank Verse - Unrhymed iambic pentameter (5 feet/ di-dah)*
- 📍 Cliché - An overused saying
- 📍 **Cacophony – short, sharp sounds in sequence**
- 📍 Connotation - Meaning of a word beyond exact definition— shades of meaning or idiom
- 📍 **Consonance - Repetition of consonant sound not first letter of word**
- 📍 Contrast - Difference between items
- 📍 Denotation - Exact meaning of a word
- 📍 Dialect - Dialogue or monologue with an accent
- 📍 *Echoing - Repetition of words or phrases*
- 📍 **Euphony – Poetic sound element, opposite of cacophony – pleasing sound due to soft consonants in a line**
- 📍 Extended metaphor - A metaphor that continues through/overall a work with numerous references to it
- 📍 Figurative language - Meaning beyond the literal-appeals to senses-figures of speech-metaphor, etc.
- 📍 *Free verse - No set rhyme or structure*
- 📍 Hyperbole - Exaggeration
- 📍 Imagery - Appeals to the senses
- 📍 Impressionism - To captures sense impressions in writing or art
- 📍 Irony - Unexpected idea
- 📍 Light verse - Humorous, or simple idea expressed in poetry
- 📍 *Line – Second smallest unit of a poem after “words”. A line is words of a poem that occupy one straight line of text*
- 📍 Metaphor - Milk-white snow- a direct comparison
- 📍 *Meter - regular rhythm in a poem, measured in “feet”; ex. Iambic Pentameter, etc.*
- 📍 Mood - Emotional atmosphere
- 📍 Moral - A stated lesson
- 📍 Narrator - Voice that relates the events, sometimes removed from action
- 📍 **Onomatopoeia – “Woof, woof, bang!” attempt to duplicate a sound with a word or expression**
- 📍 Oxymoron - Two related, seemingly opposite words
- 📍 Parable - A simple lesson story where every aspect corresponds to part of a bigger issue
- 📍 *Parallelism - Repeated grammatical form for related ideas*
- 📍 Personification - Human traits to non-human objects/animals
- 📍 Point of View - Narrative perspective-who tells: 1st =“I”; 2nd = “you”, 3rd =he, she, they
- 📍 Realism - Accurate account, unsentimental
- 📍 *Refrain - A repeated portion of a poem, usually at the end of a stanza*
- 📍 **Repetition - Repeating sounds or words**
- 📍 **Rhyme - Similarity or match of sound, types: end, internal, slant (near), sight, masculine, feminine**
- 📍 *Rhyme scheme - Analysis of end rhyme using ABABCDCD, etc.*
- 📍 **Rhyme, end - Rhyme at the end of a line**
- 📍 **Rhyme feminine - Multiple matching syllables**
- 📍 **Rhyme, internal - Rhyme within a line**
- 📍 **Rhyme, masculine - Last syllable rhyme**
- 📍 Rhyme, sight – looks like it should rhyme but doesn't (ex: *have, shave*)
- 📍 **Rhyme, slant - Inexact or off-rhymes; half rhyme, sometimes called “near rhyme”**
- 📍 *Rhythm - The metric structure of a line of poetry-beats and feet*
- 📍 Setting - Time, place, mood
- 📍 Simile - Comparison using like/as
- 📍 **Sound elements - Assonance, consonance, onomatopoeia, etc. –can be heard**
- 📍 Speaker - Voice that talks to the reader
- 📍 *Stanza - Group of lines in a poem*
- 📍 *Structure - Arrangement of parts-verses, stanzas, lines, meter, order, etc.*
- 📍 Surrealism - The imagination described as in dreams
- 📍 Symbol - It represents something else
- 📍 Syntax - Word order
- 📍 Syntax, inverted - Reversal of expected word order
- 📍 Theme - Meaning behind story
- 📍 Tone - Attitude of the writer conveyed through writing
- 📍 Understatement - Play down for emphasis-opposite of hyperbole-
- 📍 Voice - Unique human personality conveyed by writing-comes from diction, syntax, figurative language

