

## Grade 8 – Poetry Terms

Poetry: A type of literature that expresses ideas, feelings, or tells a story in a specific form (usually using lines and stanzas).

1. Line - a group of words together on one line of the poem.

2. Stanza - a group of lines arranged together.

A word is dead  
When it is said,  
Some say.

I say it just  
Begins to live  
That day.

3. Rhyme - The repetition of sounds in two or more words.

Ex. Rat/cat  
I like cheese           A  
More if you please     A

4. Rhyme scheme: A rhyme scheme is a pattern of rhyme usually found at the end of lines of poetry.

Use the letters of the alphabet to represent sounds to be able to visually “see” the pattern.

Ex. Mall   a  
Card   b  
Fall   a  
Hard   b

5. Imagery: poets often create ‘pictures’ which help the reader or listener to imagine something clearly. They appeal to the five senses of sight, sound, touch, taste, or smell.

Ex. metaphor, personification and simile are types of imagery.

6. Mood: the feeling you get when you read a piece of writing (ex. sad, happy, scared, lonely, etc.).

7. Repetition: a word, phrase, or stanza is repeated exactly throughout.

## Sound Devices

8. Alliteration: the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words.

Ex. Wee willy willy won't go home. (Usually 3)

9. Figurative Language: included are simile, metaphor, and personification. You have to read between the lines to get at the deeper meaning to understand them. Figurative Language is powerful in that the comparisons spark the imagination and enhance images and emotions.

10. Figurative Meaning: language which has a deeper meaning. The meaning is hinted at by using figurative language such as similes, metaphors, and personification.

11. Hyperbole: When the poet /writer uses exaggeration to make a point.

Ex: I have told you a million times...  
I am so hungry I could eat a horse....

12. Irony: when the opposite of what is expected to happen actually happens.

13. Literal Meaning: a summary of a poem in your own words. Like a plot summary. Think of what happens in the beginning, middle, and end of the poem. Not opinions, themes, etc

14. Metaphor: a comparison of two unlike nouns not using "like" or "as". The comparison is more direct than a simile.

Ex: When angry, he is a tornado  
The army tank, a grey monster, edged slowly toward the city.

15. Onomatopoeia: the sound of a word matches its meaning.

Ex: crash, pow, hiss, plop, buzz, pow, bang, etc.

16. Personification: giving human qualities to nonhuman things.

Ex: The moon peeked over the clouds.  
The wind whistled.

17. Simile: when a two unlike nouns are compared, using the words "like" or "as" and even "than."

Ex. "Her hands were as rough as sandpaper"  
"His mood was blacker than night"  
"The cat's fur was like silk"

18. Symbol: an object or a person place or thing that can exist on its own, but can also stand for something else.

Ex. a flag can be both cloth and a defining feature of a country's identity.

### Forms of Poetry

19. Ballad - a form of narrative verse meant to be sung or recited. It is characterized by its vivid characterization of an exciting or dramatic episode.

20. Concrete Poetry - a form of picture-poem in which letters and words are arranged to create a visual effect. The shape often enhances the meaning of the poem.

21. Free Verse - used to describe poetry based on an irregular but rhythmic pattern of words and phrases rather than a regular arrangement of accented and unaccented syllables. Free versed does not usually use any type of rhyme.

22. Limerick - a form of light verse which is always 5 lines long. The first, second and fifth lines rhyme and contain three strong beats. The third and fourth lines rhyme and have only two strong beats.

23. Lyric - a brief poem filled with melody and emotion. It includes the sonnet, song, haiku, and elegy.

24. Narrative - a term which may be applied to any poem that tells a story but is not a ballad or an epic.