

# POETRY TERMS

1. **ALLITERATION** = the repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of words.

The snake slowly slithered across the sandy shore.

2. **CONCRETE POEM** = takes on the shape of the poem's subject.

Example: a poem in the shape of a rainbow

3. **COUPLET** = two rhyming lines.

She always turned on a **light**  
Beside her attic bed each **night**.

- 4 **DICTION** = specific and deliberate word choice to create a mood.

Words like *sunny, laughter, smiling, bright*, create a mood of happiness

5. **FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE** = not the dictionary meaning of the words,  
The author does not mean for the reader to take the words literally.

Examples: simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, etc.

6. **HAIKU** = a form of Japanese poetry written in three lines, and it presents a single thought or observation often related to nature

7. **HYPERBOLE** = a wild exaggeration.

His smile was a mile wide. (Not really, but he must be very happy!)

8. **INFERENCE**= a logical guess that is based on facts and one's own knowledge and experience

9. **LITERAL LANGUAGE (denotation)** = dictionary meaning of words; the author means for the reader to interpret the words just as they are written.

10. **METAPHOR** = compare two unlike things directly without using like or as.

Morning is a new sheet of paper for you to write on.

11. **MOOD**: the feeling or emotion created by a poem or story.

12. **ONOMATOPOEIA** = the use of a word whose sound is its meaning.

buzz -swish-crash-squeak-zing-groan-whisper

13. **PERSONIFICATION** = giving human qualities to animals, ideas, or object

The sea awoke at midnight from its sleep.

14. **POETRY**= is mainly an imaginative way to express ones feelings or thoughts. Poetry is usually written using meters or verses that may rhyme, and is often considered graceful and beautiful.

15. **QUATRAIN** is a four-line stanza (see example under RHYME SCHEME definition).

16. **REFRAIN/REPETITION** = a word or line that is repeated in a poem to emphasize an important idea or create a certain effect.

17. **RHYME** = the repetition of syllable sounds that occur in the words at the end of lines of poetry.

He travels without map or chart  
or any compass but his art.

18. **RHYME SCHEME** = the pattern of end rhymes in a poem.

All around the house is the jet black **night**. (a)  
It stares through the window-**pane**. (b)  
It crawls in the corners, hiding from the **light**. (a)  
And it moves with the moving **flame**. (b)

Whose woods these are I think I **know**. (a)  
His house is in the village **though**; (a)  
He will not see me stopping **here** (b)  
To watch his woods fill up with **snow**. (a)

19. **RHYTHM** = the sound pattern created by combining stressed and unstressed syllables; the beat of a poem.

20. **SENSORY IMAGERY** = appeals to the senses;  
Makes the reader see, hear, feel, smell, or taste the poem.

Bright red apple - hot fudge dripping off the vanilla cone

21. **SIMILE** = using like or as to make a comparison.

He flew in the room as fast as a rocket heading for Mars.

22. **SPEAKER** = the voice that talks to the reader, much like the narrator in a story.

23. **STANZA** = division in a poem named for the number of lines it contains.

