



# Elements of Poetry

11<sup>th</sup> Grade Ms. Polson

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# What is poetry?

A type of writing that uses language to express imaginative and emotional qualities instead of or in addition to meaning

*Poetry*



# Point of View in Poetry

## POET

- The *poet* is the author of the poem

## SPEAKER

- The *speaker* of the poem is the “narrator” of the poem



# Language in Poetry

## **Figurative**

Language used to create a special effect in feeling; characterized by figures of speech or language that compares, exaggerates, or words that mean something other than its literal meaning

## **Literal**

The exact primary meaning of a word or words



# Poetic Structures



# Meter

Meter is the ***pattern of rhythm*** established for a verse



# Iambic foot

- A foot is a unit of meter; consists of two or three syllables
- An iambic foot is an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable.

## Example:

We could write the rhythm like this:  
da **DUM** da **DUM** da **DUM** da **DUM**



# Rhythm

- The actual sound that results from a line of poetry
- Gives poetry a musical feel
- Can be fast or slow, depending on mood and subject of poem
- You can measure rhythm in *meter* by counting the beats in each line.

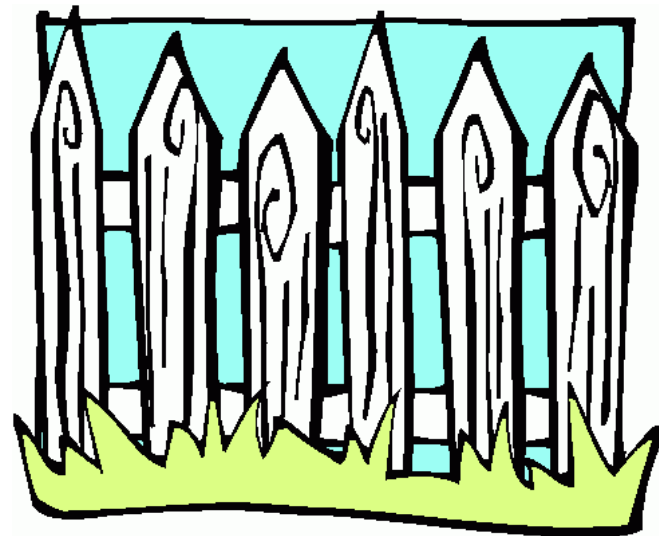




## Rhythm Example

### **The Pickety Fence** by *David McCord*

The pickety fence  
The pickety fence  
Give it a lick it's  
The pickety fence  
Give it a lick it's  
A clickety fence  
Give it a lick it's a lickety fence  
Give it a lick  
Give it a lick  
Give it a lick  
With a rickety stick  
pickety  
pickety  
pickety  
pick.



**The rhythm in this poem is fast – to match the speed of the stick striking the fence.**



# Rhythm Example

## Where Are You Now?

When the night begins to fall  
And the sky begins to glow  
You look up and see the tall  
City of lights begin to grow –  
In rows and little golden  
squares  
The lights come out.  
First here, then there  
Behind the windowpanes as  
though  
A million billion bees had built  
Their golden hives and  
honeycombs  
Above you in the air.

By Mary Britton Miller



**The rhythm in this poem is slow – to match the night gently falling and the lights slowly coming on.**

## Rhyme

- **Rhymes** are words that end with the same sound (Hat, cat, and bat)
- Rhyming sounds don't have to be spelled the same way. (Cloud and allowed)





# Rhyming Patterns

(Rhyme Scheme)

- Poets can choose from a variety of different rhyming patterns
- **AABB** – lines **1 & 2** rhyme and lines **3 & 4** rhyme
- **ABAB** – lines **1 & 3** rhyme and lines **2 & 4** rhyme
- **ABBA** – lines **1 & 4** rhyme and lines **2 & 3** rhyme
- **ABCB** – lines **2 & 4** rhyme and lines **1 & 3** do not rhyme



# Position of Rhyme

## End Rhyme

- Consists of the similarity occurring at the end of two or more lines of verse

## Internal Rhyme

- Consists of the similarity occurring between two or more words in the same line



# Examples

## Internal Rhyme

Once upon a midnight **dreary**, while I pondered, weak and **weary**,  
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore,  
While I nodded, nearly **napping**, suddenly there came a **tapping**,  
As of someone gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.

“The Raven”  
by Edgar Allen Poe

## End Rhyme

The grave's a fine and private **place**  
But none I think do there **embrace.**



## Near, Off, or Slant Rhyme

- A rhyme based on an imperfect or incomplete correspondence of end syllable sounds.
- Common in the work of Emily Dickinson

- **Example:**

Unwarmed by any sunset light  
The gray day darkened into night,  
A night made hoary with the swarm  
And whirl-dance of the blinding storm,  
As zigzag, wavering to and fro,  
Crossed and recrossed the winged snow;



# Poetic Forms





# Poetry Form

- **FORM** – the appearance of the words on the page
- **LINE** – a group of words together on one line of the poem
- **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.

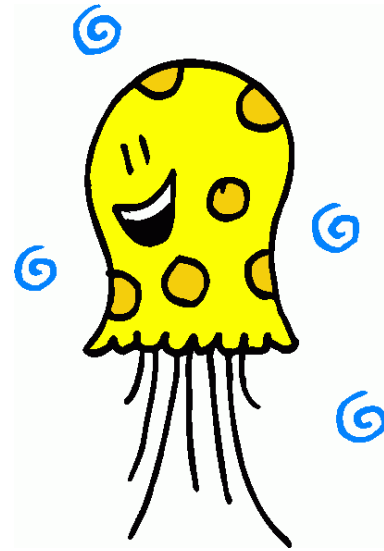


# Types of Stanzas

- Couplet (2 lines)
- Triplet (3 lines)
- Quatrain (4 lines)
- Quintet (5 lines)
- Sestet (6 lines)
- Septet (7 lines)
- Octave (8 lines)

# Couplet

- A couplet is a poem, or stanza in a poem, written in two lines.
- Usually rhymes



## The Jellyfish

Who wants my jellyfish?

I'm not sellyfish!

By Ogden Nash



# Blank Verse

- Poetry written in unrhymed iambic pentameter



Helpful hint: William Shakespeare often writes in Blank Verse



## Example of Blank Verse

To be, or not to be: that is the question:  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,  
And by opposing end them?

To die: to sleep;

No more; and by a sleep to saw we end  
The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks  
That flesh is heir to, 'tis a consummation  
Devoutly to be wish'd.

-William Shakespeare  
From *Hamlet*





## Free Verse

- Poetry that does not have a regular meter or rhyme scheme.

Excerpt from ***Song of Myself***  
by Walt Whitman

I celebrate myself, and sing myself,  
And what I assume you shall assume,  
For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to  
you.

I loaf and invite my soul,  
I lean and loaf at my ease observing a spear of summer  
grass



# Sonnet

a fourteen line poem that is *usually* written in iambic pentameter and has a strict rhyme scheme

Interesting Factoid: William Shakespeare wrote 154 sonnets to an unnamed patron during the Bubonic Plague when all of the theatres were closed down.





# Sonnet 18

by William Shakespeare

Shall I compare thee to a summer's **day**?  
Thou art more lovely and more **temperate**.  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of **May**,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a **date**.  
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven **shines**,  
And often is his gold complexion **dimmed**;  
And every fair from fair sometime **declines**,  
By chance, or nature's changing course, **untrimmed**;  
But thy eternal summer shall not **fade**,  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou **ow'st**,  
Nor shall death brag thou wand'rest in his **shade**,  
When in eternal lines to Time thou **grow'st**.

So long as men can breathe, or eyes can **see**,  
So long lives this, and this gives life to **thee**.

A  
B  
A  
B  
C  
D  
C  
D  
E  
F  
E  
F  
G  
G





## Elegy

Usually a poem that mourns the death of an individual, the absence of something deeply loved, or the transience of mankind



Here Captain! dear father!  
This arm beneath your head;  
It is some dream that on deck,  
You've fallen cold and dead.

-"O Captain! My Captain!" by  
Walt Whitman



# Narrative Poetry

A narrative poem is a poem that **tells a story**

**Example:**

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

By Clement C. Moore





## Lyric Poetry

The most widely used type of poem, so diverse in its format that a rigid definition is impossible. However, several factors run common in all lyrics:

- ~Limited length
- ~Personal expression of emotion
- ~Expression of thoughts and feelings of one speaker
- ~Highly imaginative
- ~Regular rhyme scheme



## Limerick

- A funny poem with five lines; often called a nonsense poem
  - Lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyme
  - Lines 3 & 4 are shorter and rhyme
  - Line 5 refers to line 1



### **There Seems to Be a Problem**

I really don't know about Jim.  
When he comes to our farm for a swim,  
the fish as a rule,  
jump out of the pool.  
Is there something the matter with him?

## Haiku

- A popular form of traditional Japanese poetry
- 3 lines, 17 syllables
  - 5 syllables
  - 7 syllables
  - 5 syllables



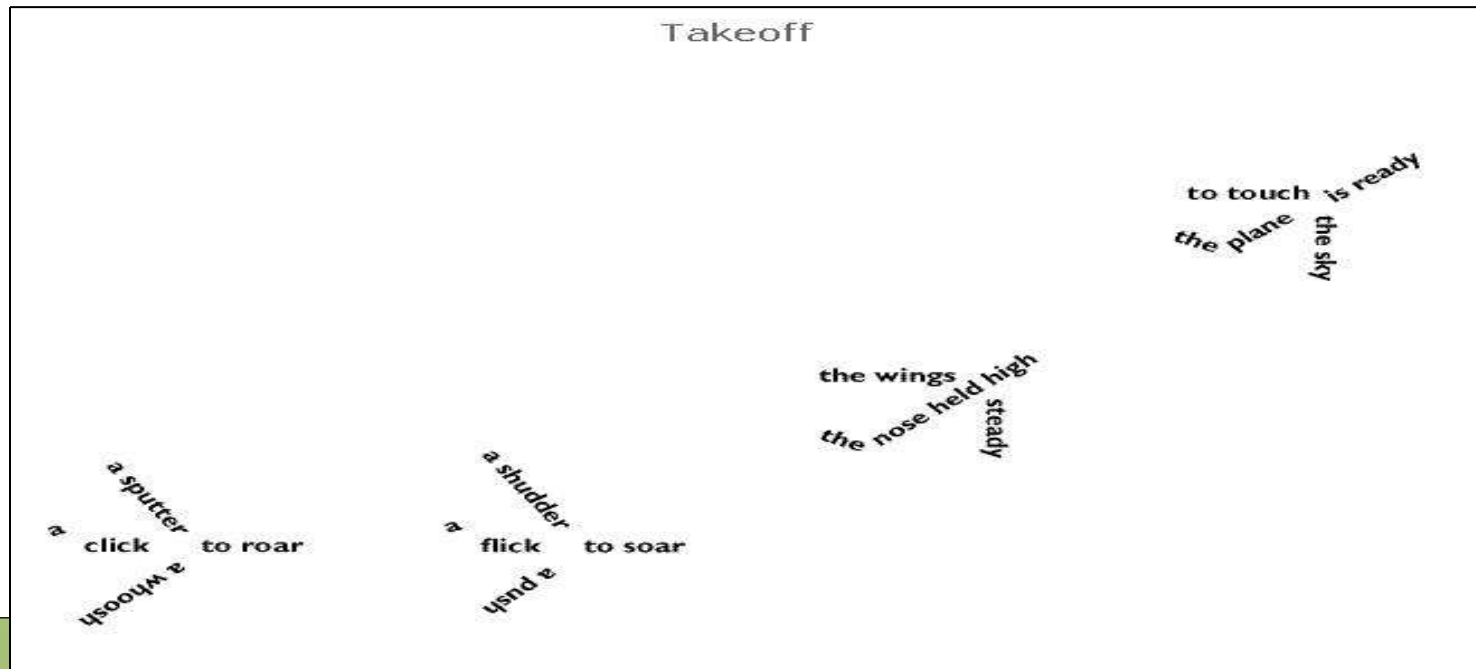
### Zombie Haiku

Zombies shuffling  
Doing the dance of the dead  
Two left feet—no lie!



# Concrete Poetry

Uses word arrangement, typeface, color or other visual effects to complement or dramatize the meaning of the words used





# Epic Poems

A long story told in verse which tells the great deeds of a hero

## **Examples:**

*The Odyssey*

*The Iliad*

*Beowulf*



# Literary Devices Used in Poetry

Figurative language





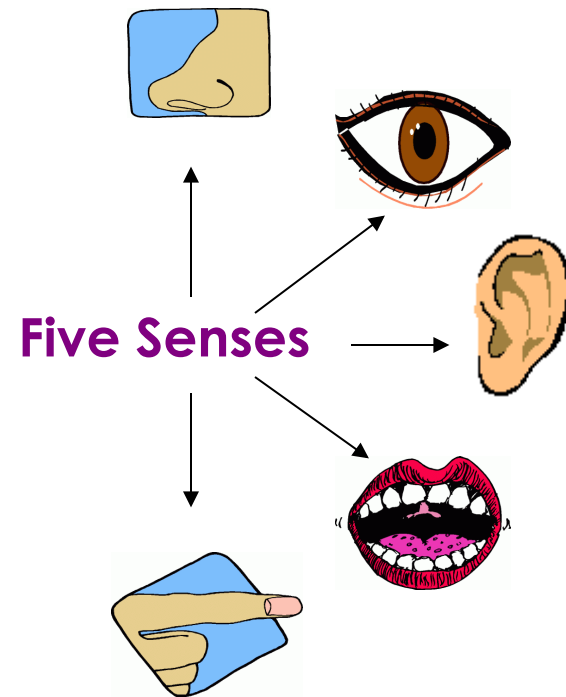
# Figurative Language

(figures of speech)

- **Figurative Language** is the use of words outside of their literal or usual meaning to add beauty or force

# Imagery

- Imagery is **the use of words** to create pictures, or images in your mind.
- Appeals to the five senses: smell, sight, hearing, taste, and touch.
- Details about smells, sounds, colors, and tastes create strong images.
- To create vivid images writers use **figures of speech**





# Metaphors & Similes

## Simile

A direct comparison between two unlike things using **like** or **as**.

EX: Her home was **like** a prison



## Metaphor

An implied comparison between two unlike things without the use of the words **like** or **as**

EX: Her home was a prison



# Alliteration

The use of similar sounds at the beginning or end of a word

**Once** upon a midnight dreary, **while** I pondered, **weak** and **weary**,

Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore,  
While I **nodded**, **nearly napping**, suddenly there came a tapping,  
As of someone gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.

"'Tis some visitor," I muttered, "tapping at my chamber door—  
Only this, and nothing more."

--Edgar Allen Poe,  
"The Raven"



## Onomatopoeia

- The use of a word or words whose sound imitates its meaning





# Personification

A special kind of metaphor in which a nonhuman thing is talked about as if it was human **(given human characteristics)**

## **The Cat and the Fiddle**

Hey diddle, Diddle,  
The cat and the fiddle,  
The cow jumped over the moon;  
The little dog laughed  
To see such a sport, and the dish ran away with  
the spoon



# Symbolism

When a person, place, thing, or idea stands for itself and for something else

