

Poetry Terms

7th Language Arts

Stanzas – grouped lines of poetry

Figurative Language – writing or speech not meant to be taken literally

Metaphors – describe one thing as if it were something else. *The house was a zoo in the morning.*

Personification – gives human qualities to something that is not human. The cars *growled* in the traffic.

Similes – use like or as to compare two seemingly unlike things. *He stormed into the meeting like a tornado.*

Symbol – anything that represents something else. A dove is a common symbol for peace.

Sound devices – enhance a poem's mood or meaning.

Alliteration – repetitive consonant sounds at the beginning of words. The dogs enjoyed their *comfortably, carpeted cubicles.*

Repetition – the use of any element of language—a sound, word, phrase, clause, or sentence—more than once.

Assonance – the repetition of vowel sounds followed by different consonants in stressed syllables, as in *blade* and *maze*.

Consonance – the repetition of similar consonant sounds at the ends of accented syllables, as in *wind* and *sand*.

Onomatopoeia – the use of words that imitate sounds. *Crash, bang, and hiss*

Rhyme – the repetition of sounds at the ends of words as in *speech* and *teach*.

Meter – the rhythmical pattern in a poem.

Forms of Poetry –

Narrative – tells a story in verse. Narrative poems often have elements similar to those in short stories, such as plot and characters.

Haiku – a three-line Japanese verse form. The first and third lines each have five syllables and the second line has seven.

Free Verse – defined by its lack of strict structure. It has no regular meter, rhyme, fixed line length, or specific stanza pattern.

Lyric – expresses the thoughts and feelings of a single speaker, often in highly musical verse.

Ballads – songlike poems that tell stories. They often deal with adventure and romance.

Concrete – are shaped to look like their subjects. The poet arranges the lines to create a picture on the page.

Limericks – humorous, rhyming, five-line poems with a specific rhythm pattern and rhyme scheme.

Rhyming Couplets – pairs of rhyming lines, usually of the same meter and length.