



Introduction to Poetry: The Basics



8th ELA– Bouchard

What makes a poem?

- ▶ Have you ever tried to write a poem?
- ▶ Poetry is everywhere – in our favorite songs, the nursery rhymes we read as children, and even in some television commercials.
- ▶ With a partner, make a list of poems that you have read or heard.
- ▶ At least five



What makes a poem?

- ▶ Now, answer the following questions.
- ▶ Did you find poetry in any unexpected places?
- ▶ What do these poems have in common?
- ▶ How do the words create mental pictures?
- ▶ Do these poems rhyme, or have rhythm?



Unit Goals:

- ▶ Identify and analyze figurative language
 - ▶ Identify, analyze, and compare length and meaning of stanzas
 - ▶ Identify and analyze sound devices
 - ▶ Identify, analyze, and compare rhyme schemes
 - ▶ Analyze repetition in poetry
 - ▶ Identify and analyze rhythm and meter and their effects
 - ▶ Identify and analyze a speaker
-



Unit Goals:

- ▶ Develop strategies for reading, including visualizing, clarifying, and setting a purpose for reading
 - ▶ Paraphrase lines in poetry
 - ▶ Outline information
 - ▶ Support an opinion
 - ▶ Write a personal response to a poem
 - ▶ Define and use poetry terms
-



Appreciating Poetry

- ▶ Define the terms:
- ▶ Form
- ▶ Lines
- ▶ Stanzas
- ▶ Speaker



Traditional Form vs. Free Verse

Traditional Form: a poem with a specific number of lines and a rhyming pattern

- ▶ How many lines in each stanza?
- ▶ What do you notice about the rhyme?

Free Verse: (unconventional) the poet lets the ideas drive where each line breaks

- ▶ How does the form differ from the above poem?
- ▶ What do you learn about the poem's speaker?



Poetic Elements – Sound Devices

Poets choose words not only for their meaning, but also for their sounds. The sound of a word or line can help emphasize meaning or create a musical quality.

Define the following terms:

- ▶ Rhythm
- ▶ Rhyme
- ▶ Repetition
- ▶ Alliteration
- ▶ Assonance



How to Eat a Poem: Eve Merriam

Don't be polite.

Bite in.

Pick it up with your fingers and lick the juice that
may run down your chin.

It is ready and ripe now, whenever you are.

You do not need a knife or fork or spoon
or plate or napkin or tablecloth.

For there is no core
or stem
or rind
or pit
or seed
or skin
to throw away.

