



# Poetry

*“In a poem the words should be as  
pleasing to the ear as the meaning is  
to the mind.”—Marianne Moore*

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## Essential Questions:

- What is poetry?
- What literary devices may be used to interpret a poem?

## Music as Poetry?

- Choose a song.
- Think of the lyrics.
- Do you think that song is related to poetry? Why or why not?



# Poetry

(ancient Greek: ποιεω (poieo) = I create)

Poetry is an art form in which human language is used for its aesthetic qualities in addition to, or instead of, its literal and semantic meaning.

It consists largely of oral or literary works in which language is used in a manner that is felt by its user and audience to differ from ordinary prose.

(poetry.org)

# Types of Poetry

- Narrative
- Ballad
- Free Verse
- Epic
- Lyric
- Sonnet
- Haiku
- Limerick

# Pieces of a Poem

## Bad Hair Day

I looked in the mirror  
with shock and with **dread**  
to discover two antlers  
had sprung from my **head**.

Line

Rhyme Scheme

Stanza



# Lines

- The lines may or may not be sentences.
- When reading a poem, read for punctuation first. Line breaks don't always help understanding.



# Stanzas

- Groups of lines in traditional poetry, often separated by a space.
- A poetic paragraph.

## **If those I Loved Were lost**

Emily Dickinson

If those I loved were lost  
The Crier's voice would tell me—  
If those I loved were found  
The bells of Ghent would ring—

S  
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a  
n  
z

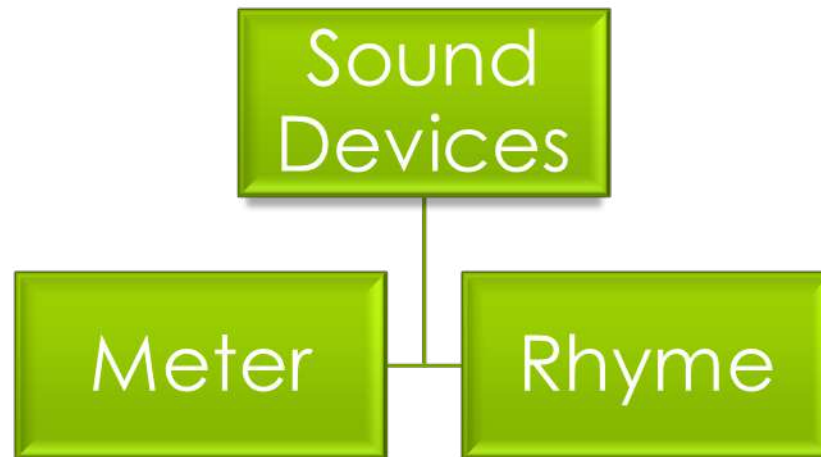
Did those I loved repose  
The Daisy would impel me.  
Philip -- when bewildered  
Bore his riddle in!

a



# Sound Devices

- The way a poem sounds often helps discover its meaning.
- Resources used by poets to convey and reinforce the meaning or experience of poetry through the skillful use of sound.



# Meter

- The RHYTHM of the poem – how it sounds in beats.
- A pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables.
- Meter occurs when the stressed and unstressed syllables of the words in a poem are arranged in a repeating pattern.
- Unstressed syllables are marked with a little "U" on top and the stressed syllables are marked with a '.

She **stuck** out her **tongue** and it **stayed** there – it **froze**!



She **screamed** when she **no** ticed her **mouth** would n't **close**.



# Rhyme

## ○ Sounds that are alike

### End Rhyme

- At the end of lines
- Ex: This is my cat  
She likes to wear a hat

### Internal Rhyme

- Within a line or between the middles of two lines
- Ex: Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered  
weak and weary.

### Slant Rhyme

- Words that do not exactly rhyme
- Ex: “Rose and lose”

# Rhyme Scheme

- Rhymes Scheme is noted in capital letters.

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| My cat is <u>nice</u> .    | A |
| My cat likes <u>mice</u> . | A |
| My cat is <u>fat</u> .     | B |
| I like my <u>cat</u> .     | B |

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| My cat is <u>nice</u> .    | A |
| My cat is <u>fat</u> .     | B |
| My cat likes <u>mice</u> . | A |
| I like my <u>cat</u> .     | B |

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| My cat is <u>gray</u> . | A |
| My cat is <u>fat</u> .  | B |
| My cat is <u>cute</u> . | C |
| I like my <u>cat</u> .  | B |

A “rhyme scheme” is a way of describing the pattern of end rhymes in a poem.

Each new sound at the end of a line is given a letter, starting with “A,” then “B,” and so on.

If an end sound repeats the end sound of an earlier line, it gets the same letter as the earlier line.

# Alliteration

- Consonant sounds repeated close together, usually at the beginnings of words
- We usually refer to them as *soft* or *hard* sounds

She **h**appily  
**h**elped  
the  
**h**omeless

My **m**other **m**ake  
a **m**outhwaterin  
g  
**m**incemeat pie.

The **r**ed **r**oses  
were **w**rapp  
ed  
in **r**ibbons.

He **d**unked  
the **d**elicious **d**onut  
in **d**airy creamer.

The **p**arrot **p**  
erched  
upon  
the **p**irate's  
**p**eecoat.

The **b**eautiful **b**ouquet **b**lossomed  
in the **b**right sun.

# Alliteration

# Assonance

- Repeated VOWEL sounds in a line or lines of poetry

Do you like blue?

The rain in Spain falls mainly  
in the plains.

Row, row, row your boat...

# Consonance

- Like assonance, consonance appears in the middle of words as repeated consonant sounds.

And the silken sad uncertain rustling of  
each purple curtain

Ptter patter of little feet on the stairs.

# Tones

- The **writer's attitude** toward his or her readers and the subject; author's mood or moral view.
- A writer can be formal, informal, playful, ironic, and especially, optimistic or pessimistic.





## Word Choice

- Notice the differences between these three sentences:
- She picked up a fruit from the ground, where it lay.
- She pilfered an apple that had fallen from its tree.
- The lovely woman stooped and grabbed the fallen apple.
- In all three versions we have the basic elements—a woman, an apple, a tree—but they are given different emphasis.

- Simile
- Metaphor
- Hyperbole
- Idiom
- Personification, etc.

# Imagery

- Words or phrases that appeal to the five senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch.
- Imagery is what helps you paint a picture or imagine what is happening or what the poet is feeling.
- Example: “The hamburgers sizzled on the grill.....”

# Metaphor

- A comparison of two things WITHOUT using “as or like”
- His face is a puzzle to me, I can never figure out what he is thinking.

## Simile

- A comparison of two things using the words **like** or **as**.

Her smile was bright **like** the sun!

The peach was as delicious **as** a kiss.

My dog is as mean **as** a snake.

# Personification

- Giving an animal or an object human qualities.

My dog smiles at me.

The house glowed with happiness.

The car was irritated when she pumped it full of cheap gas.

# Symbolism

- When a person, place, thing, or event that has meaning in itself also represents, or stands for, something else.

# Idiom



- An expression where the literal meaning of the words is not the meaning of the expression. It means something other than what it actually says.

- Ex. It's raining cats and dogs.





# Hyperbole

- Obviously exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally.



Example:

my backpack weighs a ton!



# Poetry

There is so much more to poetry....

We have only scratched the surface.....