

# Poetry Unit Academic Vocabulary

Academic Term	explanation	Example
1. speaker	The speaker of a poem is whoever is talking to you from within the poem. <u>Ask yourself</u> – who's talking here?	"But believe me, son I want to be what I used to be When I was like you."
2. alliteration	A technique that strings together the same starting sounds (see what I did there?!)	"While I <u>n</u> odded, <u>n</u> early <u>n</u> apping, Suddenly there came a tapping..."
3. rhyme	When an author makes the ending sounds of various lines rhyme	"While I nodded, nearly <u>napping</u> , Suddenly there came a <u>tapping</u> ..."
4. repetition	A technique that strengthens the emotion of a piece by repeating certain words or phrases	"Because I do not hope to turn again Because I do not hope Because I do not hope to turn..."
5. onomatopoeia	A word that imitates the sound of something making the piece more expressive	Gurgle, whisper, crash, buzz
6. metaphor	A metaphor compares two things by saying one IS the other	Middle School is one big roller coaster ride!
7. simile	A simile compares two things by using the words <u>like</u> or <u>as</u>	The baby's toes were like tiny, fat sausages.
8. personification	When something that isn't human or isn't even alive is given human qualities.	The sunrays danced in her hair.
9. imagery	When an author uses strong sensory words to help the reader visualize	The candy melted in her mouth with swirls of bittersweet chocolate and slightly salty caramel blending together on her tongue.
10. mood	The emotion the poem puts out. You may feel joy, anger, love, gloomy, pride, doom (among others) coming from a poem. <u>Ask yourself</u> : how does the author want me to feel when reading this?	Blades of grass brown and tattered From frost's sharp fingernails. Winter squeezes the last breath Out of all that once thrived.