

Elements of Poetry

Elements of Poetry

- FORM
- SOUND
- IMAGERY
- FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

FORM

The way a poem looks – or its arrangement on the page.

- LINES - verse
- STANZA'S - lines that are grouped together
- FORMAL STRUCTURE VS. FREE VERSE

Verse

A name for a line of poetry written in meter.
Named according to the number of “Feet” per line.

- **Monometer** one foot
- **Dimeter** two feet
- **Trimeter** Three feet
- **Tetrameter** four feet
- **Pentameter** five feet
- **Hexameter** six feet
- **Heptameter** seven feet
- **Octometer** eight feet

Stanza

A division in a poem named for the number of lines it contains.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| ❖ <i>Couplet</i> | two-line stanza |
| ❖ <i>Triplet</i> | three-line stanza |
| ❖ <i>Quatrain</i> | four-line stanza |
| ❖ <i>Sestet</i> | six-line stanza |
| ❖ <i>Septet</i> | seven-line stanza |
| ❖ <i>Octave</i> | eight-line stanza |

SOUND

Reinforces poems meaning

- RHYME
- RHYTHM
- REPETITION
- ONOMATOPOEIA

RHYME

Repetition of sounds at the ends of words.

- INTERNAL RHYME- use of rhyming words within a line
- EXTERNAL RHYME – rhymes at end of lines

RHYTHM

Pattern of sound created by stressed and unstressed syllables in a line of poetry.

Also known as the BEAT.

- METER – Name for “pattern of sound” that is repeated in poems.

Meter

- / symbol means stressed
- - Symbol means unstressed
- The pattern is AABBA.

The Three Blind Mice

/ - - / - - /

Hickory, dickory, dock,

- / - / - /

The mice ran up the clock

- / - /

The clock struck one,

- / - /

The mice ran down.

/ - - / - - /

Hickory, dickory, dock.

Foot

One unit of meter. There are five basic feet:

- **Iambic**: An unaccented syllable followed by an accented one (re peat)
- **Anapestic**: Two unaccented syllables before one accented (in ter rupt)
- **Trochaic**: An accented syllable followed by an unaccented (old er)
- **Dactylic**: An accented syllable followed by two unaccented (o pen ly)
- **Spondaic**: Two accented syllables (heart break)

REPETITION

- Repeating of sounds, words, phrases, or lines in a poem.
- Helps poet emphasize an idea or convey a certain meaning.
- Alliteration – type of figurative language that lends itself to repetition.

ONOMATOPOEIA

Type of figurative language that lends itself to create “SOUND” in a poem.

IMAGERY

Words and phrases that appeals to the five senses.

Descriptions of people or objects stated in terms of our senses.

EXAMPLE

“She sprinkles raindrops in my face on a sunny day.”

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Whenever you describe something by comparing it with something else.

Any language that goes beyond the literal meaning of words in order to furnish new effects or fresh insights into an idea or a subject.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

- SIMILE
- METAPHOR
- ALLITERATION
- ASSONANCE
- HYPERBOLE
- PERSONIFICATION
- ONOMATOPOEIA
- OXYMORONS
- CLICHÉ
- IDIOMS

SIMILE

Comparison of two things using the words “like or “as”

- EXAMPLE:
 - Her smile was as cold as ice.
 - The cat was as limp as a wet rag.
 - His smile is like a ray of sunshine.

METAPHOR

Comparison of two things essentially different but with some commonalities;
does not use “like” or “as”.

- My heart is as numb as a potato.

His smile is a ray of sunshine.

He has the heart of a lion.

You are the sun in my sky.

You are the light in my life.

ALLITERATION

The repetition of usually initial consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words or syllables.

- The wild and woolly walrus waits and wonders when we'll walk by.
- The gorgeous green gecko grinned at granny.
- Six silly swans swam up stream.

ASSONANCE

A resemblance of sound in words or syllables.

– Fleet feet sweep by sleeping geese.

HYPERBOLE

Big exaggeration, usually with humor.

- Mile-high ice-cream cones
- As dumb as a fence post
- It was so cold even the polar bears were wearing jackets.
- I think of you a million times a day.

PERSONIFICATION

Giving something human qualities.

- The stuffed bear **smiled** as the little girl hugged him close.
- The S.S. Hato took her first **bite** of open sea and began to pitch gently.
- The daffodils **nodded** their yellow heads at the walkers.
- The chair **danced** as the baby bounced to and fro.

ONOMATOPOEIA

Naming a thing or an action by imitating the sound associated with it.

BUZZ

HISS

CLUNK

ZAP

WOOF

CRAAAACKLE

ROAR

OXYMORONS

Two words together that are opposites
but together mean something

MUD BATH

AWFULLY
PRETTY

COLD
SWEAT

CIVIL WAR

BAD LUCK

HONEST
CROOK

ENORMOUSLY
SMALL

INVISIBLE
INK

FREEZER
BURN

POOL TABLE

ICY HOT

SWEET
TART

SHORT
DISTANCE

WHOLE HALF

CLICHE

A word or phrase that has become overly familiar or commonplace.

- No pain, no gain.
- Don't count your chickens before they hatch.
- You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink.

IDIOM

The language peculiar to a group of people.

- Mad as a wet hen.
- Kill two birds with one stone.
- The early bird gets the worm..

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