

Olympiads School, Grade 8 English, Class 7 Notes

### What is free verse?

- Free verse is poetry that does not stick to a defined rhythm or rhyme scheme.
- Poets who write in free verse try to mimic the natural rhythm and flow of language as it is spoken.
- There may be traditional poetic devices in free verse (e.g., imagery, alliteration, chiasmus etc.).
- But there isn't a strict pattern.



### Common devices in free verse

- Poets who write in free verse often use alliteration, assonance, and imagery.
- The imagery may appeal to the five senses (i.e., olfactory, auditory, gustatory, tactile, and visual).

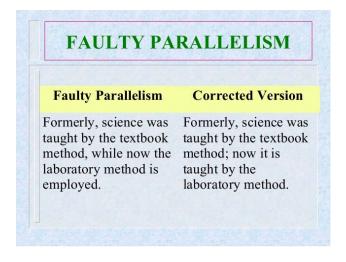


# Other common poetic devices

• Onomatopoeia



 Parallel structure (the repetition of the same or similar words, phrases, or sentences)



## So, there are no rules?

- Not exactly! There is still an underlying organizational pattern.
- First of all, the speaker (the voice in the poem) has to sound like a human being.
- The images may be derived from everyday reality.



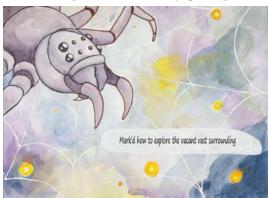
#### Cadence

- Cadence is the natural, rhythmic rise and fall of language as it is normally spoken.
- When writing free verse, poets try to maintain a sense of balance, proportion, and timing that sounds natural to the ear.

A Noiseless Patient Spider by Walt Whitman

A noiseless patient spider,

I mark'd where on a little promontory it stood isolated, Mark'd how to explore the vacant vast surrounding, It launch'd forth filament, filament, filament, out of itself, Ever unreeling them, ever tirelessly speeding them.



#### Walt Whitman

#### INSCRIPTIONS.

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#### I HEAR AMERICA SINGING.

I HEAR America singing, the varied carols I hear,

Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it should be blithe and strong,

The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank or beam,

The mason singing his as he makes ready for work, or leaves off work,

The boatman singing what belongs to him in his boat, the deck-hand singing on the steamboat deck,

The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench, the hatter singing as he stands,

The wood-cutter's song, the ploughboy's on his way in the morning, or at noon intermission or at sundown,

The delicious singing of the mother, or of the young wife at work,

or of the girl sewing or washing, Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else,

The day what belongs to the day—at night the party of young fellows, robust, friendly,
Singing with open mouths their strong melodious songs.

