



FOCUS: Answering multiple-choice reference questions about longer passages.

[Continue](#)

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and the reference questions that follow. Mark the choice that best answers each question.

[Continue](#)

What is Poetry?



Reading > Lesson 6: Reference Questions > Exercise 6.2

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and the reference questions that follow. Mark the choice that best answers each question.

Hide Time 00:19:37

Continue

Throughout history and across national and cultural boundaries, poetry has held an important place. Today, throughout the world, poetry continues to delight and to inspire. For many people in countless places, poetry is the language of the emotions, the medium of expression to use when one speaks from the heart.

But what exactly is poetry? Through the ages, critics and poets alike have used various means to define it. Focusing on its organic nature, [A. C. Bradley](#) once described it as "a world by itself." Thus, one way to define poetry is by its internal integration of form and content. Another is by its technical differences with other forms of literature such as fiction or drama. The first and most important element of poetry that distinguishes it from any other genre is its written form. Unlike prose, which is written from margin to margin, poetry is made up of individual lines. A line of poetry begins and ends where the poet chooses: it can start at the left margin or halfway across the page, and it can end at the right margin or after only a word or two. A poet chooses when to stop, or break, the line according to his or her sense of rhythm and cadence. Poets also use the sounds of words themselves, both alone and in conjunction with the other words of the poem, to create a sense of rhythm and melody. Many use alliteration (the repetition of consonant sounds in consecutive or neighboring words), a feature commonly employed by Old English poets, assonance (the repetition of vowel sounds at the ends of words), and consonance (the repetition of consonant sounds at the ends of words)--three devices commonly used to help create the music of a poem. Poets use rhyme (either at the ends of lines or within the lines themselves, which contributes to the pattern of sounds in a poem. In addition, poets are more likely than writers of other kinds of literature to rely on imagery, words or phrases that appeal to the senses. These vivid descriptions or details help the reader to connect with the poet's ideas in a tangible way. Poets also make extensive use of figurative language such as metaphor and simile to convey complex ideas with two levels of meaning, the figurative and the literal, and by this means give their readers access to both.

Finally, some have defined poetry in yet another way: by our assumptions about it. Readers of poetry, including poets,

different generations of readers and poets, and different cultures may all have different expectations about poetry. As a result, they have varying assumptions about what poetry should be, and these assumptions raise questions. Must poetry be written to delight or inspire, or can a poem have a political or social message? Must a poem's theme be conveyed subtly, embellished with imaginatively-chosen sounds and words, or can it be explicit and straightforward? Such questions, which have been debated by literary critics as well as by poets for many years, have no easy answers--and perhaps no answers at all.



Reading > Lesson 6: Reference Questions > Exercise 6.2

Hide Time 00:18:31

Back

1 of 8

Next

Review

Continue

1 The word **one** refers to

- ☐ a number
- ☐ a person
- ☐ a feeling
- ☐ a medium

Throughout history and across national and cultural boundaries, poetry has held an important place. Today, throughout the world, poetry continues to delight and to inspire. For many people in countless places, poetry is the language of the emotions, the medium of expression to use when **one** speaks from the heart.

But what exactly is poetry? Through the ages, critics and poets alike have used various means to define it. Focusing on its organic nature, [A. C. Bradley](#) once described it as "a world by itself." Thus, one way to define poetry is by its internal integration of form and content. Another is by its technical differences with other forms of literature such as fiction or drama. The first and most important element of poetry that distinguishes it from any other genre is its written form. Unlike prose, which is written from margin to margin, poetry is made up of individual lines. A line of poetry begins and ends where the poet chooses: it can start at the left margin or halfway across the page, and it can end at the right margin or after only a word or two. A poet chooses when to stop, or break, the line according to his or her sense of rhythm and cadence. Poets also use the sounds of words themselves, both alone and in conjunction



Hide Time 00:18:24

Back

2 of 8

Next

Review

Continue

2 The word **Another** refers to

- ☐ a poem
- ☐ a method
- ☐ a description
- ☐ a definition

But what exactly is poetry? Through the ages, critics and poets alike have used various means to define it. Focusing on its organic nature, **A. C. Bradley** once described it as "a world by itself." Thus, one way to define poetry is by its internal integration of form and content. **Another** is by its technical differences with other forms of literature such as fiction or drama. The first and most important element of poetry that distinguishes it from any other genre is its written form. Unlike prose, which is written from margin to margin, poetry is made up of individual lines. A line of poetry begins and ends where the poet chooses: it can start at the left margin or halfway across the page, and it can end at the right margin or after only a word or two. A poet chooses when to stop, or break, the line according to his or her sense of rhythm and cadence. Poets also use the sounds of words themselves, both alone and in conjunction with the other words of the poem, to create a sense of rhythm and melody. Many use alliteration (the repetition of consonant sounds in consecutive or neighboring words), a feature commonly employed by Old English poets, assonance (the repetition of vowel sounds at the ends of words), and consonance (the repetition of consonant sounds at the ends of words). These devices are commonly used to help



Hide Time 00:18:16

Back

3 of 8

Next

Review

Continue

3 The word **it** in paragraph 2 refers to

- ☐ poem
- ☐ page
- ☐ line
- ☐ margin

But what exactly is poetry? Through the ages, critics and poets alike have used various means to define it. Focusing on its organic nature, **A. C. Bradley** once described it as "a world by itself." Thus, one way to define poetry is by its internal integration of form and content. Another is by its technical differences with other forms of literature such as fiction or drama. The first and most important element of poetry that distinguishes it from any other genre is its written form. Unlike prose, which is written from margin to margin, poetry is made up of individual lines. A line of poetry begins and ends where the poet chooses: it can start at the left margin or halfway across the page, and **it** can end at the right margin or after only a word or two. A poet chooses when to stop, or break, the line according to his or her sense of rhythm and cadence. Poets also use the sounds of words themselves, both alone and in conjunction with the other words of the poem, to create a sense of rhythm and melody. Many use alliteration (the repetition of consonant sounds in consecutive or neighboring words), a feature commonly employed by Old English poets, assonance (the repetition of vowel sounds at the ends of words), and consonance (the repetition of consonant sounds at the ends of words). These devices are commonly used to help



Hide Time 00:18:10

Back

4 of 8

Next

Review

Continue

4 The word **Many** refers to

- ☐ poets
- ☐ sounds and words
- ☐ ancient poets
- ☐ English poets

But what exactly is poetry? Through the ages, critics and poets alike have used various means to define it. Focusing on its organic nature, [A. C. Bradley](#) once described it as "a world by itself." Thus, one way to define poetry is by its internal integration of form and content. Another is by its technical differences with other forms of literature such as fiction or drama. The first and most important element of poetry that distinguishes it from any other genre is its written form. Unlike prose, which is written from margin to margin, poetry is made up of individual lines. A line of poetry begins and ends where the poet chooses: it can start at the left margin or halfway across the page, and it can end at the right margin or after only a word or two. A poet chooses when to stop, or break, the line according to his or her sense of rhythm and cadence. Poets also use the sounds of words themselves, both alone and in conjunction with the other words of the poem, to create a sense of rhythm and melody. **Many** use alliteration (the repetition of consonant sounds in consecutive or neighboring words), a feature commonly employed by Old English poets, assonance (the repetition of vowel sounds at the ends of words), and consonance (the repetition of consonant sounds at the ends of words). These devices commonly used to help



Hide Time 00:18:04

Back

5 of 8

Next

Review

Continue

5 The word **themselves** refers to

- ☐ patterns of sounds
- ☐ locations of words
- ☐ rhymes in a poem
- ☐ lines of words

But what exactly is poetry? Through the ages, critics and poets alike have used various means to define it. Focusing on its organic nature, [A. C. Bradley](#) once described it as "a world by itself." Thus, one way to define poetry is by its internal integration of form and content. Another is by its technical differences with other forms of literature such as fiction or drama. The first and most important element of poetry that distinguishes it from any other genre is its written form. Unlike prose, which is written from margin to margin, poetry is made up of individual lines. A line of poetry begins and ends where the poet chooses: it can start at the left margin or halfway across the page, and it can end at the right margin or after only a word or two. A poet chooses when to stop, or break, the line according to his or her sense of rhythm and cadence. Poets also use the sounds of words themselves, both alone and in conjunction with the other words of the poem, to create a sense of rhythm and melody. Many use alliteration (the repetition of consonant sounds in consecutive or neighboring words), a feature commonly employed by Old English poets, assonance (the repetition of vowel sounds at the ends of words), and consonance (the repetition of consonant sounds at the ends of words). These devices commonly used to help



Hide Time 00:17:58

Back

6 of 8

Next

Review

Continue

6 The phrase **These vivid descriptions** refers to

- ☐ rhymes
- ☐ kinds of literature
- ☐ imagery
- ☐ senses

But what exactly is poetry? Through the ages, critics and poets alike have used various means to define it. Focusing on its organic nature, [A. C. Bradley](#) once described it as "a world by itself." Thus, one way to define poetry is by its internal integration of form and content. Another is by its technical differences with other forms of literature such as fiction or drama. The first and most important element of poetry that distinguishes it from any other genre is its written form. Unlike prose, which is written from margin to margin, poetry is made up of individual lines. A line of poetry begins and ends where the poet chooses: it can start at the left margin or halfway across the page, and it can end at the right margin or after only a word or two. A poet chooses when to stop, or break, the line according to his or her sense of rhythm and cadence. Poets also use the sounds of words themselves, both alone and in conjunction with the other words of the poem, to create a sense of rhythm and melody. Many use alliteration (the repetition of consonant sounds in consecutive or neighboring words), a feature commonly employed by Old English poets, assonance (the repetition of vowel sounds at the ends of words), and consonance (the repetition of consonant sounds at the ends of words). These devices commonly used to help



Hide Time 00:17:46

Back

7 of 8

Next

Review

Continue

7 The word **both** refers to

- ☐ genres of poetry
- ☐ levels of meaning
- ☐ types of poets
- ☐ kinds of readers

But what exactly is poetry? Through the ages, critics and poets alike have used various means to define it. Focusing on its organic nature, [A. C. Bradley](#) once described it as "a world by itself." Thus, one way to define poetry is by its internal integration of form and content. Another is by its technical differences with other forms of literature such as fiction or drama. The first and most important element of poetry that distinguishes it from any other genre is its written form. Unlike prose, which is written from margin to margin, poetry is made up of individual lines. A line of poetry begins and ends where the poet chooses: it can start at the left margin or halfway across the page, and it can end at the right margin or after only a word or two. A poet chooses when to stop, or break, the line according to his or her sense of rhythm and cadence. Poets also use the sounds of words themselves, both alone and in conjunction with the other words of the poem, to create a sense of rhythm and melody. Many use alliteration (the repetition of consonant sounds in consecutive or neighboring words), a feature commonly employed by Old English poets, assonance (the repetition of vowel sounds at the ends of words), and consonance (the repetition of consonant sounds at the ends of words). These devices commonly used to help



Hide Time 00:17:40

Back

8 of 8

Next

Review

Continue

8 The word **some** refers to

- ☐ literature
- ☐ people
- ☐ poets
- ☐ readers

poets are more likely than writers of other kinds of literature to rely on imagery, words or phrases that appeal to the senses. These vivid descriptions or details help the reader to connect with the poet's ideas in a tangible way. Poets also make extensive use of figurative language such as metaphor and simile to convey complex ideas with two levels of meaning, the figurative and the literal, and by this means give their readers access to both.

Finally, **some** have defined poetry in yet another way: by our assumptions about it. Readers of poetry, including poets, different generations of readers and poets, and different cultures may all have different expectations about poetry. As a result, they have varying assumptions about what poetry should be, and these assumptions raise questions. Must poetry be written to delight or inspire, or can a poem have a political or social message? Must a poem's theme be conveyed subtly, embellished with imaginatively-chosen sounds and words, or can it be explicit and straightforward? Such questions, which have been debated by literary critics as well as by poets for many years, have no easy answers--and perhaps no answers at all.