Types of Poetry

1. Lyric poetry

* Poems that express deep personal feelings of a speaker or the poet in a song-like form. Lyric poems deal primarily with basic human needs, thoughts, feeling, and common human experience. They help us to view these in new ways.

Examples: sonnets, odes and elegies

* + Sonnet
    - A lyric poem
    - Consists of 14 lines
    - Lines are usually iambic pentameter (unstressed/stressed)

1 pattern = 1 foot

1. patterns = penta

Iamb = stressing (u = unstressed; / = stressed

* + Types of Sonnets
    - Shakespearean Sonnet – 14 lines of Iambic Pentameter divided into:
      * 3 quatrains (a quatrain is 4 lines)
      * 1 rhyming couplet (2 lines)
      * The quatrains establish the theme, the couplet is the conclusion or it may emphasize the main point
      * The rhyme scheme is:
        + Abab
        + Cdcd
        + Efef
        + Gg
    - Pentrachan Sonnet – 14 lines of iambic pentameter divided into:
      * + 1 octave (contains 8 lines)
        + 1 sestet (a sestet has 6 lines)
        + Rhyme scheme is:

Abbaabba

Cdecde

* + - * + The octave usually introduces a question, subject or problem
        + The sestet usually provides an answer or a conclusion
  + Ode
    - A poem in praise or memory of someone
  + Elegy
    - A lament in memory of someone

1. Narrative Poetry
   * Tells a story in simple, direct, rhythmical language with strong emphasis on plot or action
   * Examples include epics and ballads

Epic

* A long narrative (story) poem, traditionally involving heroic characters and themes
* Example: Beowulf, Paradise lost

Ballad

* A rhymed, narrative poem that may be recited or sung
* Generally written in quatrains and feature legendary or historical persons or events as their subject matter

Dramatic Poetry

* Narrative poetry which tells a story by means of speech or action. Dramatic poems are meant to be read aloud or performed
* Examples include: dramatic monologues and Shakespearean plays

1. Descriptive Poetry
   * Presents a painted picture (in words) of a scene or character
   * Examples include: pastorals and idyllis

Pastorals

* Poems dealing with country life

Idyllis

* Poems marked by descriptive and narrative qualities

1. Didactic Poetry
   * Poems that are reflective and expository. Didactic poetry criticizes social habits, customs, attitudes, and problems in order to promote change
   * Examples include: criticisms, satires and parodies
2. Blank Verse
   * Verse poetry that is unrhymed and not broken into stanzas. It is particularly suited to long poems and plays and is ordinarily iambic pentameter
3. Free Verse
   * A form of poetry which refrains from meter patters, rhyme, or any other musical pattern

Characteristics of Peotry

1. Each poem has a rhythm
   1. The accents of the syllables in words fall at regular intervals, like the beat of musics

u / u /

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Technical Name | Accented = / “dumm”  Unaccented = u “de” | Examples such as |
| Iambic | u /  De dumm | A way |
| Trochaic | u /  Dumm de | Com ing |
| Anapestic | u u /  De de dumm | Let us in |
| Dactylic | / u u  Dumm de de | Vic to ries |

* 1. the “beat” of poetry “feet” is called “meter”

Meter/Feet

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 Foot  2 Feet  3 Feet  4 Feet  5 Feet  6 Feet  7 Feet  8 Feet | Monometer  Dimeter  Trimeter  Tetrameter  Pentameter  Hexameter  Heptameter  Octameter |

1. Each poem has a melody (sound devices)
   1. The main sound device is called rhyme
      1. Rhyme is 2 words that have the same sound

Single rhyme – love, dove

Double rhyme – napping, tapping

Triple rhyme – mournfully, scornfully

Imperfect rhyme – two words look alike but don’t sound alike

e.g. love/jove, dough/tough

Internal rhyme – let’s beat the heat (rhyme within a line)

* 1. Other sound devices include
     1. Assonance – resemblance of sound in words or syllables
     2. Onomatopoeia – where words sound like meanings
     3. Alliteration – where words begin with the same consonant sound

1. Each poem also has imagery – figures of speech representing sense experience
   1. Comparison
      1. Simile – two unlike things compared using “like” or “as”
      2. Metaphor – two unlike things directly compared (without “like” or “as”)
      3. Personification – giving human qualities to things
      4. Apostrophe – addressing some abstract object
      5. Literary allusion – referring metaphorically to person, places, and events from history or previous literature
   2. Exaggeration
      1. Hyperbole – saying more than is true
      2. Understatement – saying less than is true
      3. Irony – saying the opposite to what is true
      4. Antithesis – using contrast for effects
      5. Synecdoche – using parts for the whole
      6. Metonymy – substitution of one word for another closely related word

Examples of Style

1. Classical – poetry that is very formal (Milton)
2. Romantic – imaginative poetry dealing with nature and love (shelly)
3. Realistic – poetry dealing with everyday life (Whitman)
4. Psychological – realistic poetry concerned with man’s inner thoughts (eliot/Frost)
5. Abstract – highly symbolic poetry. Personal poetry (beatnik Poets)