

POETRY TERMS GRADE 9

Poetry – writing intended to create an emotional response from the reader. Types of poems include:

- ***Ballad** – a narrative poem or song that tells a popular story, often of physical courage or love.
- ***Concrete** – a poem whose shape or visual appearance contributes to its meaning
- * **Elegy** – a type of lyric poem (see below) that expresses sadness for someone who had died
- ***Epic** – a long, narrative poem dealing with the actions of legendary people or the history of nations
- ***Free verse** – poems with no established pattern
- ***Haiku** – a seventeen-syllable poem set out in three lines in a 5-7-5 syllable pattern, often captures a moment in nature
- ***Lyric** – a poem that expresses intense personal thoughts
- ***Sonnet** – a fourteen line poem that usually follows a set rhyme scheme and rhythm

Alliteration – the repetition of the beginning sounds in groups of words, usually at the beginning of a word or stressed syllable; e.g., descending dew drops; luscious lemons

***Apostrophe** – is a poetic device which addresses someone or something absent or silent, as if it were present and alive: eg. “Twinkle, twinkle, little star, How I wonder what you are”

Assonance – the close repetition of the same vowel sounds between different consonants; e.g., brave – vain; lone – show; feel – sleet

Connotations – when a word or image goes beyond the literal meaning; e.g., “gang” connotes “violence, unruly behaviour”, etc.

***Couplet** – two lines of verse with similar end-rhymes

Denotation – refers to the specific, exact, and concrete dictionary meaning of a word; e.g., “home” denotes “a place where one lives”

Figurative language – language that uses figures of speech, such as simile, metaphor, personification, and alliteration; used to create imagery

Hyperbole – an exaggerated statement for humorous or dramatic effect; e.g., “It rained cats and dogs”, or “I’ve told you a million times”

Imagery – words that appeal to the reader’s senses and enables us to see, hear, smell, taste, and touch what the writer is describing

Literal language – language that means exactly what it says

Literal meaning – a summary of what happens in the poem

Metaphor – a figure of speech that makes a comparison between two unlike things, without using the words like or as; *e.g.*, “You are a dog.”

Mood – the overall feeling (*e.g.*, light and happy or dark and brooding) created by an author’s choice of words

Onomatopoeia – the sound of a word resemble its meaning, *e.g.*, buzz, hiss, etc.

***Oxymoron** – a figure of speech in which opposite words are placed together for the purpose of emphasizing a point; *e.g.*, cold fire, feather of lead, honourable villain, silent speech

Personification – a literary device in which human qualities or actions are attributed to non-human beings or objects, *e.g.*, “The clouds *danced* across the sky”

Poetic device – features of poetic writing (*e.g.*, alliteration, simile, rhythm, *etc.*)

***Refrain** – a phrase, line, or lines repeated in a poem; often called the chorus in song lyrics

Rhyme – the same sound occurring in different words

Rhythm – pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables

Simile – a comparison between two unlike things using like or as; *e.g.*, “My love is like a red, red rose.”

Stanza – a stanza in a poem is what a paragraph is to a piece of prose – stanzas are separated by spaces

Symbolism – something concrete, such as a person, object, image, word, or event that represents something abstract, such as a feeling, emotion, idea or concept; *e.g.* the colour red can symbolize love or anger, or the colour black can symbolize danger or death, *etc.*