



## POETRY NOTES

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#### POETRY is...

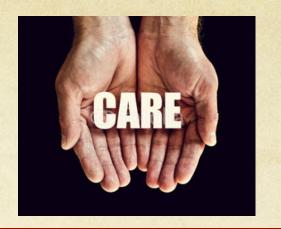


a type of literature that expresses ideas and feelings, or tells a story in a specific form

(usually using lines and stanzas)

#### POETIC FORM

- O FORM the appearance of the words on the page
- Column LINE a group of words together on one line of the poem
- O STANZA a group of lines arranged together



A word is dead

When it is said,

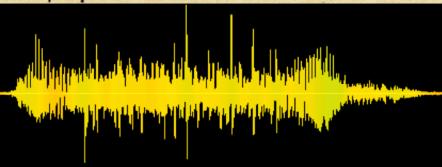
Some say.

I say it just

Begins to live

That day.

- Emily Dickinson



# POETIC SOUND EFFECTS

### RHYTHM



The beat created by the sounds of the words in a poem. Rhythm can be created by using, meter, rhymes, alliteration, and refrain.

### METER

- A pattern of stressed (strong) and unstressed (weak) syllables
- Each unit or part of the pattern is called a "foot"
- > Types of Feet:
  - Iambic unstressed, stressed
  - Trochaic stressed, unstressed
  - Anapestic unstressed, unstressed, stressed
  - Dactylic stressed, unstressed, unstressed

#### RHYMES

Words sound alike because they share the same ending vowel and consonant sounds. A word always rhymes with itself.

LAMP

**STAMP** 

- → Share the short "a" vowel sound
- → Share the combined "mp" consonant sound

#### RHYME SCHEME

o a pattern of rhyming words or sounds (usually end rhyme, but not always).

O Use the letters of the alphabet to represent sounds to be able to visually "see" the pattern.

(See next slide for an example.)

# SAMPLE RHYME SCHEME



A mighty creature is the germ,	A
Though smaller than the pachyderm.	A
His customary dwelling place	B
Is deep within the human race.	B
His childish pride he often pleases	C
By giving people strange diseases.	C
Do you, my poppet, feel infirm?	A
You probably contain a germ.	A

- "The Germ" by Ogden Nash

### END RHYME

A word at the end of one line rhymes with a word at the end of another line

Hector the Collector	A
Collected bits of <u>string</u> .	В
Collected dolls with broken heads	C
And rusty bells that would not <u>ring</u> .	В

<sup>-&</sup>quot; Hector the Collector" by Shel Silverstein

#### INTERNAL RHYME

• A word inside a line rhymes with another word on the same line.

Ah, distinctly I remember, it was in the bleak December

- "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe

#### NEAR RHYME

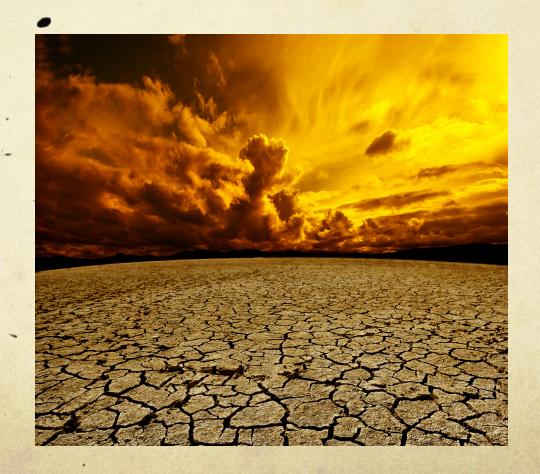
Also known as imperfect or "close enough" rhyme. The words share EITHER the same vowel or consonant sound BUT NOT BOTH

ROSE

LOSE

- → Different vowel sounds (long "o" and "oo" sound)
- → Share the same consonant sound ("s")

# OTHER TYPES OF POETIC DEVICES



#### REFRAIN

A sound, word, phrase or line repeated regularly in a poem, usually at the end of each stanza or verse, such as the chorus in a song.

There lived a lady by the North Sea shore,
Lay the bent to the bonny broom
Two daughters were the babes she bore.
Fa la la la la la la.
As one grew bright as is the sun,
Lay the bent to the bonny broom
So coal black grew the other one.
Fa la la la la la la.

<sup>-&</sup>quot; The Cruel Sister" by Francis J. Child

#### TONE

Used in poetry to convey feeling and emotion, and set the mood for the work. This can be done through word choice, the grammatical arrangement of words (syntax), imagery, or details that are included or omitted.

I met a traveler from an antique land.

-from "Ozymandias" by Shelley

This line immediately generates a story-telling atmosphere, just as it is with the phrase, "Once upon a time." An audience is clearly implied.

#### CONNOTATION vs DENOTATION

- Connotation: an emotional or social association with a word, giving meaning beyond the literal definition
- Denotation: the specific, literal image, idea, concept, or object that a word or phrase refers to

Word	Denotation	Connotation
a star	ball of light/gas in the sky	a wish
a family	group of related individuals	love, trust, closeness
a dog	four legged mammal	friend, protector, pet

# FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE



## ALLITERATION

 Consonant sounds repeated at the beginnings of words

If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,

how many <u>p</u>ickled <u>p</u>eppers did <u>P</u>eter <u>P</u>iper <u>p</u>ick?



# ANALOGY

Comparison of two or more unlike things in order to show a similarity in their characteristics

- O Two main types:
  - O Simile
  - Metaphor



#### SIMILE

O Comparison of two unlike things using "like" or "as"

Friends are like chocolate cake,
you can never have too many.
Chocolate cake is like heaven always amazing you with each taste or feeling.
Chocolate cake is like life
with so many different pieces.
Chocolate cake is like happiness,
you can never get enough of it.

- "Chocolate Cake" by Anonymous

#### METAPHOR

Comparison of two unlike things where one word is used to designate the other (one is the other)

A spider is a black dark midnight sky.

Its web is a Ferris wheel.

It has a fat moon body and legs of dangling string.

Its eyes are like little match ends.

#### EXTENDED METAPHOR

Continues for several lines or possibly the entire length of a work

The fog comes on little cat feet.

It sits looking over the harbor and city on silent haunches and then, moves on.

#### IDIOM

the literal meaning of the words is not the meaning of the expression. It means something other than what it actually says.

Feeling <u>under the weather</u>
you could have <u>knocked me down with a feather</u>.
It was like a <u>bolt out of the blue</u>, when I met you.
an English rose, in the flower of youth;...

from "My Sweet Idiom" by Paul Williams

#### **IMAGERY**

C Language that provides a sensory experience using sight, sound, smell, touch, taste

Soft upon my eyelashes
Turning my cheeks to pink
Softly falling, falling
Not a sound in the air
Delicately designed in snow
Fading away at my touch
Leaving only a glistening drop
And its memory

- "Crystal Cascades" by Mary Fumento

#### ONOMATOPOEIA

Words that imitate the sound that they are naming

Tlot-tlot; tlot-tlot! Had they heard it?

The horse-hoofs ringing clear;

Tlot-tlot, tlot-tlot, in the distance?

Were they deaf that they did not hear?

-from "The Highwayman" by Alfred Noyes

#### PERSONIFICATION

A nonliving thing given human or life-like qualities

Hey diddle, Diddle,
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon;
The little dog laughed
To see such sport,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

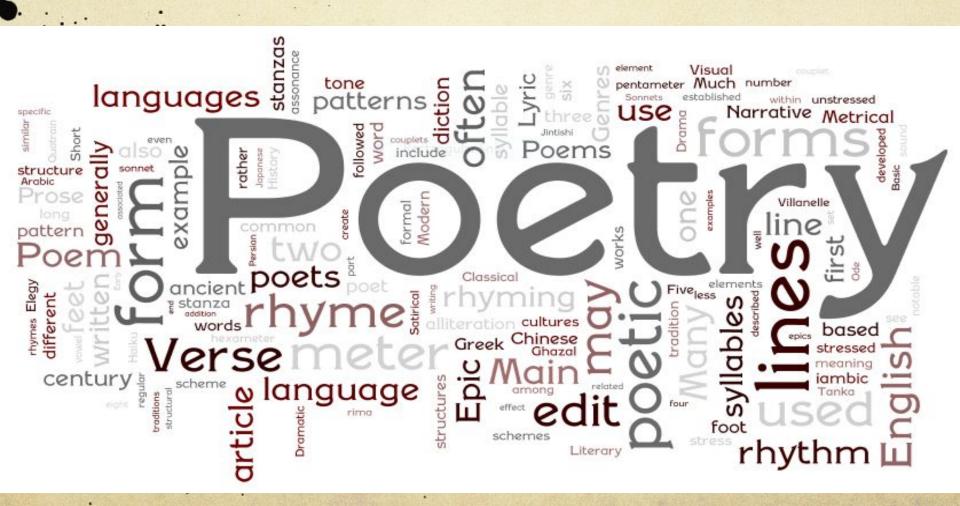
### SYMBOLISM

- The use of a word or object which represents a deeper meaning than the words themselves
- It can be a material object or a written sign used to represent something invisible.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

-from "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost

# TYPES OF POETRY



#### NARRATIVE POEMS

- O Longer and tells a story, with a beginning, middle, and end
- O Generally longer than the lyric styles of poetry because the poet needs to establish characters and a plot

Example: "The Highwayman" by Alfred Noyes

# LYRICAL POEMS

- O Short poem (only a few lines, 1-2 stanzas)
- O Usually written in first person point of view
- O Expresses an emotion or an idea, or describes a scene
- O Does <u>not</u> tell a story and are often musical

#### CONCRETE POEMS

• Words are arranged to create a picture that relates to the content of the poem

Example: See "Shoes" by Morghan Barnes

#### FREE VERSE POEMS

- O Does NOT have any repeating patterns of stressed and unstressed syllables
- O Does NOT have rhyme
- O Very conversational sounds like someone talking with you

Example: See "Fog" by Carl Sandburg

#### BLANK VERSE POEMS

- O Does have a regular meter, usually iambic pentameter (five sets of stressed/unstressed)
- O Does NOT have rhyme
- O Used by classical playwrights, like Shakespeare

To swell the gourd, and plump the ha-zel shells

# OTHER FORMS OF POETRY



#### COUPLET

- A poem of only two lines
- O Both lines have an end rhyme and the same meter
- Often found at the end of a sonnet

Whether or not we find what we are seeking is idle, biologically speaking.

-at the end of a sonnet by Edna St. Vincent Millay

#### HAIKU

- O Japanese style poem written in three lines
- Focuses traditionally on nature
- O Lines respectively are 5 syllables, 7 syllables, and 5 syllables

Whitecaps on the bay:
A broken signboard banging
In the April wind.

-untitled haiku by Richard Wright

# QUATRAIN

- O Stanza or short poem containing four lines
- O Lines 2 and 4 must rhyme, while lines 1 and 3 may or may not rhyme
- O Variations in rhyming patterns (abab, abcb)

O, my luve's like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June:
O, my luve's like the melodie
That's sweetly played in tune.

-from "A Red, Red Rose" by Robert Burns

#### LIMERICK

A five line poem with rhymes in line 1, 2, and 5, and then another rhyme in lines 3 and 4

What is a limerick, Mother?

It's a form of verse, said Brother

In which lines one and two

Rhyme with five when it's through

And three and four rhyme with each other.

A

A

B

B

A

- untitled and author unknown

#### BALLAD

- O Tells a story, similar to a folk tale or legend
- O Usually set to music
- o simple repeating rhymes, often with a refrain

Oh the ocean waves may roll,
And the stormy winds may blow,
While we poor sailors go skipping aloft
And the land lubbers lay down below, below
And the land lubbers lay down below.

-from "The Mermaid" by Anonymous

Also, American Pie by Don McLean

## SHAKESPEAREAN SONNET

- O Fourteen lines with a specific rhyme scheme
- O Written in 3 quatrains and ends with a couplet
- O Rhyme scheme is abab cdcd efef gg

#### PERSONA POEMS

- a poem written in the 1st person point of view
- writer imagines s/he is an animal, an object, a famous person anything s/he is not

I still remember the sun on my bones.
I ate pomegranates and barley cakes.
I wore a necklace of purple stones.
And sometimes I saw a crocodile
Slither silently into the Nile.

-from "The Mummy's Smile" by Shelby K. Irons

#### POINT OF VIEW

#### **POET**

the author of the poem, the person who actually wrote it

#### VS SPEAKER

the "narrator" of the poem, the voice telling us the thoughts/feelings/story

# Prayer by Galway Kinnell

Whatever happens. Whatever

what is is is what

I want. Only that. But that.



