

Introduction to 9th Grade Poetry

- A unit where you read, write, create and analyze poetry!!!



Poetry

- **Poetry** is the most misunderstood form of writing. It is also arguably the purest form of writing. **Poetry** is a sense of the beautiful; characterized by a love of beauty and expressing this through words. It is art. Like art it is very difficult to define because it is an expression of what the poet thinks and feels and may take any form the poet chooses for this expression.



Poetry, cont.

- **Poetry** is not easily defined. Often it takes the form of verse, but not all **poetry** has this structure. **Poetry** is a creative use of words which, like all art, is intended to stir an emotion in the audience. **Poetry** generally has some structure that separates it from prose.



- The basic unit of **poetry** is the **line**. It serves the same function as the sentence in prose, although most **poetry** maintains the use of **grammar** within the structure of the poem. Most poems have a structure in which each line contains a set amount of **syllables**; this is called **meter**. Lines are also often grouped into **stanzas**.
- The **stanza in poetry** is equivalent or equal to the **paragraph in prose**. Often the **lines** in a stanza will have a specific **rhyme scheme**. Some of the more common stanzas are:
 - **Couplet: a two line stanza**
 - **Triplet: a three line stanza**
 - **Quatrain: a four line stanza**
 - **Cinquain: a five line stanza**



Literary Terms

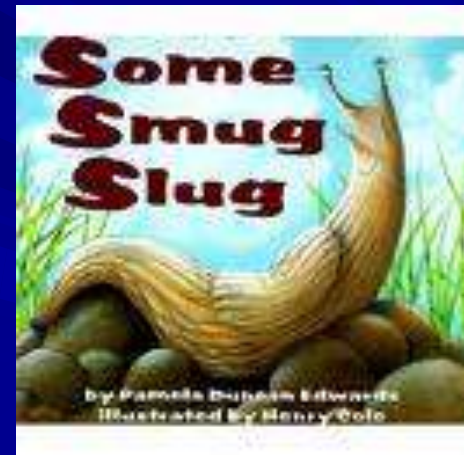
- Write down the word and the definition for the following 18 poetry terms.
- Throughout this unit, we will be looking at examples of these.



Alliteration

- Alliteration is the repetition of the **same** sounds or of the **same** kinds of sounds at the **beginning** of words or in **stressed syllables**, as in "*on scrolls of silver snowy sentences*" (*Hart Crane*).. To find an alliteration, you must look the repetitions of the **same consonant sound** through out a line.

- Silvery snowflakes fall silently
- Softly sheathing all with moonlight
- Until sunrise slowly shows
- Snow softening swiftly.



Assonance

- **Assonance** The repetition of internal vowel sounds in nearby words that do not end the same; for example, "asleep under a tree," or "each evening." Similar endings result in rhyme, as in "asleep in the deep." Assonance is a strong means of emphasizing important words in a line. See also alliteration, consonance.



Consonance

- **Consonance A**
common type of near rhyme that consists of identical consonant sounds preceded by different vowel sounds: home, same; worth, breath. See also rhyme.



End Rhyme

- **End rhyme** is the most common form of rhyme in poetry; the rhyme comes at the end of the lines.
- It runs through the reeds
And away it proceeds,
Through meadow and glade,
In sun and in shade.



Enjambment

- The continuation of the sense of a phrase beyond the end of a line of verse (run on).

EXAMPLE: T.S. Eliot's "The Wasteland"

April is the cruelest month,

breeding

Lilacs out of the dead land,

mixing

Memory and desire,....

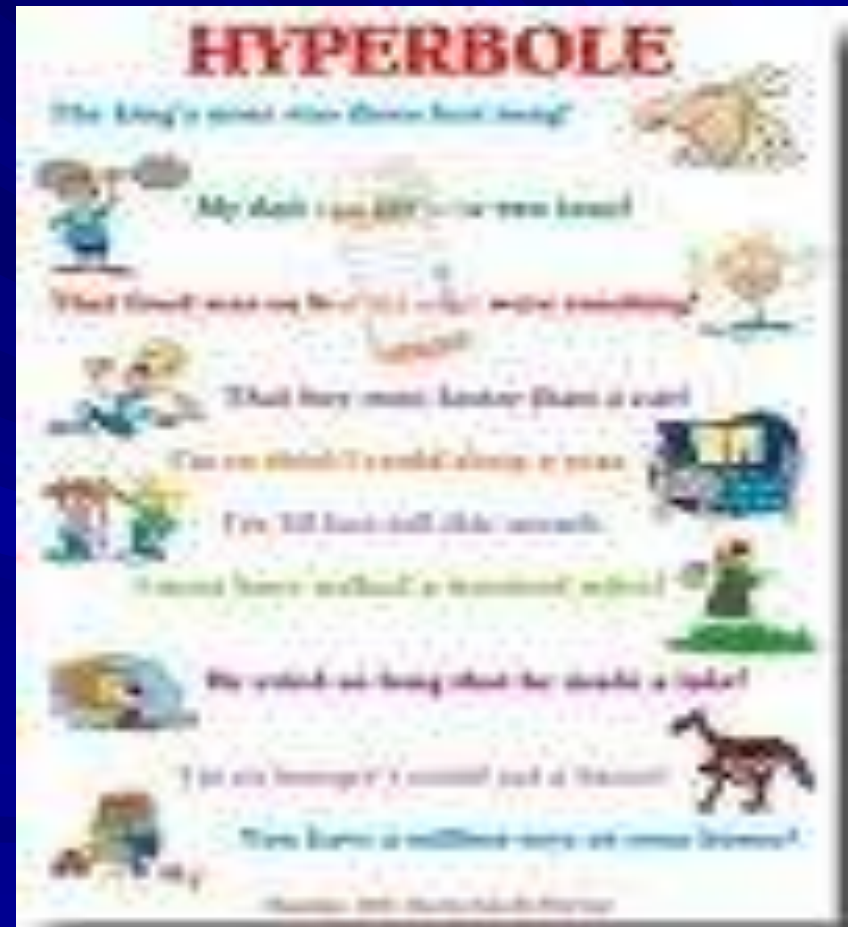
Foot

- **Foot** The metrical unit by which a line of poetry is measured.
- A foot usually consists of one stressed and one or two unstressed syllables.
- An iambic foot, which consists of one unstressed syllable followed by one stressed syllable ("away"), is the most common metrical foot in English poetry.
- A trochaic foot consists of one stressed syllable followed by an unstressed syllable ("lovely



Hyperbole

- **Hyperbole** A boldly exaggerated statement that adds emphasis without in-tending to be literally true, as in the statement "He ate everything in the house." Hyperbole (also called overstatement) may be used for serious, comic, or ironic effect. See also figures of speech.



Imagery

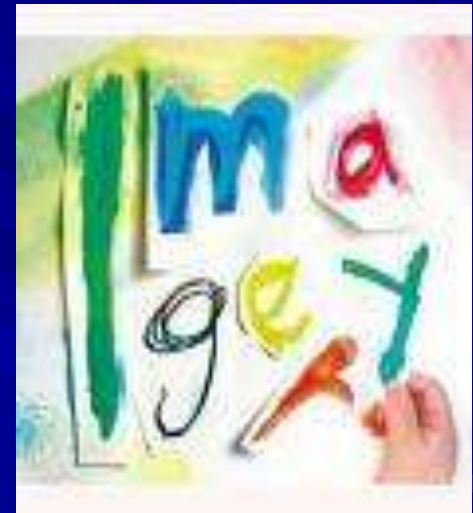
- **Imagery** is an appeal to the **senses**. The poet describes something to help you to **see, hear, touch, taste, or smell** the topic of the poem.

- **Fog**

- The fog comes on little cat feet.
- It sits looking over harbor and city
- on silent haunches and then moves on.

-

- Carl Sandburg



Internal Rhyme

- **INTERNAL RHYME:** A poetic device in which a word in the middle of a line rhymes with a word at the end of the same metrical line.

Internal rhyme appears in the first and third lines in this excerpt from Shelley's "The Cloud":

1. I silently laugh at my own cenotaph,
2. And out of the caverns of rain,
3. Like a child from the womb, like a ghost from the
4. tomb,
5. I arise and unbuild it again.

Metaphor

- **Metaphor** A metaphor is a figure of speech that makes a comparison between two unlike things, without using the word like or as.

The comparison is made with the words is or are:

Your beauty is the sun in my life.

Your teeth are pearls that glisten in the light.

Meter

- **Meter** When a rhythmic pattern of stresses recurs in a poem, it is called **meter**. Metrical patterns are determined by the type and number of feet in a line of verse.



Onomatopoeia

- **Onomatopoeia** - the use of a word that resembles the sound it denotes.
- Buzz, rattle, bang, and sizzle all reflect onomatopoeia.
- onomatopoeia can also consist of more than one word; writers sometimes create lines or whole passages in which the sound of the words helps to convey their meanings.



Personification

- **Personification** A form of metaphor in which human characteristics are attributed to nonhuman things. Personification offers the writer a way to give the world life and motion by assigning familiar human behaviors and emotions to animals, inanimate objects, and abstract ideas.



Quatrain

- **Quatrain** A four-line stanza. Quatrains are the most common stanzaic form in the English language; they can have various meters and rhyme schemes. See also meter, rhyme, stanza.



Repetition

- **Repetition** is an effective literary device that may suggest order, or add special meaning to a piece of literature or poetry. The repeating of words, phrases, lines, or stanzas.



Simile

- **Simile** A common figure of speech that makes an explicit comparison between two things by using words such as like, as, than, appears, and seems:

"A sip of Mrs. Cook's coffee is like a punch in the stomach." The effectiveness of this simile is created by the differences between the two things compared.



Stanza

- **Stanza** In poetry, stanza refers to a grouping of lines, set off by a space, that usually has a set pattern of meter and rhyme. See also line, meter, rhyme.



Verse

- **Verse**- poetic lines composed in a measured rhythmical pattern, that are often, but not necessarily, rhymed.
- As opposed to “**Prose**,” the ordinary language used in speaking and writing



Forms of Poetry

- There are 14 forms of poetry. You just need to write the definition down for these words.



Ballads

- **Ballad** - a song, transmitted orally from generation to generation, that tells a story and that eventually is written down.
- As such, ballads usually cannot be traced to a particular author or group of authors. Typically, ballads are dramatic, condensed, and impersonal narratives.

Blank Verse

- **Blank verse** Unrhymed iambic pentameter. Blank verse is the English verse form closest to the natural rhythms of English speech and therefore is the most common pattern found in traditional English narrative and dramatic poetry from Shakespeare to the early twentieth century.
- Shakespeare's plays use blank verse extensively. See also iambic pentameter.

Cinquain

- **CINQUAIN**: A five-line stanza with varied meter and rhyme scheme, possibly of medieval origin.
- Most modern cinquains have a form in which each unrhymed line has a fixed number of syllables--respectively two, four, six, eight, and two syllables in each line--for a rigid total of 22 syllables.

Here is probably the most famous example of a cinquain from Crapsey's *The Complete Poems*;

- **TRIAD**
These be
Three silent things:
The falling snow... the hour
Before the dawn... the mouth of one
Just dead.



Couplet

■ **Couplet** Two consecutive lines of poetry that usually rhyme and have the same meter. A heroic couplet is a couplet written in rhymed iambic pentameter.

■ Heroic couplet...From Robert Frost:
“Forgive O Lord”

Forgive, O Lord, my little jokes on Thee
And I'll forgive Thy great big one on me.

Concrete

- **CONCRETE POETRY:** Poetry that draws much of its power from the way the text appears situated on the page. The actual shape of the lines of text may create a swan's neck, an altar, a geometric pattern, or a set of wings, which in some direct way connects to the meaning of the words. Also called "shaped poetry" and "visual poetry,"

Diamonte

- A genre of simple concrete poetry consisting of a single unrhymed and untitled stanza with a visual structure shaped like a diamond. The poem is designed to be seen printed on a page rather than read aloud. The diamante stanza has seven lines and is normally used as children's poetry; accordingly, many elementary teachers are fond of using it to teach children parts of speech, antonyms, and simple poetic structure. Traditionally, the stanza structure is as follows:

■ Sun

Fiery, bright

Scorching, burning, laughing

Summer, daylight, moonbeams, shade

Whispering, rustling, sleeping

Cool, eclipsed

Moon



Elegy

- **Elegy** A mournful, contemplative lyric poem written to commemorate someone who is dead, often ending in a consolation.

Tennyson's *In Memoriam*, written on the death of Arthur Hallam, is an elegy. Elegy may also refer to a serious meditative poem produced to express the speaker's melancholy thoughts. See also lyric.



Epic

- **Epic** A long narrative poem, told in a formal, elevated style, that focuses on a serious subject and chronicles heroic deeds and events important to a culture or nation.
- Milton's *Paradise Lost*, which attempts to "justify the ways of God to man," is an epic. See also narrative poem.

Free Verse

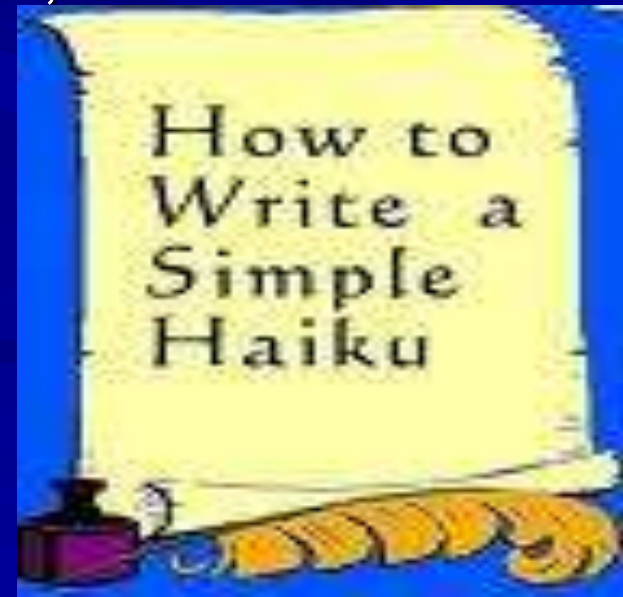
- **Free verse** is just what it says it is - **poetry** that is written **without** proper rules about form, rhyme, rhythm, and meter.
- In free verse the writer makes his/her own **rules**. The writer decides how the poem should **look, feel, and sound**.

Haiku

- **Haiku** is one of the most important forms of traditional **Japanese poetry**. Haiku is, today, a **17-syllable** verse form consisting of three metered lines of **5, 7, and 5 syllables**.
- Each Haiku must contain a *kigo*, a **season** word, which indicate in which season the Haiku is set. For example, cherry blossoms indicate **spring**, snow indicate **winter**, and mosquitoes indicate **summer**, but the season word isn't always that obvious.

Rain

Tip-tap goes the rain.
As it hits the window pane
I can hear the rain.



Limmerick

- The simplicity of the **limerick** quite possibly accounts for its extreme longevity. **It consists of five lines with the rhyme scheme a a b b a**. The **first, second, and fifth** lines are trimeter, a verse with three measures, while the **third and fourth** lines are dimeter, a verse with two measures. Often the third and fourth lines are printed as a single line with internal rhyme.

- **Old Man with a Beard**

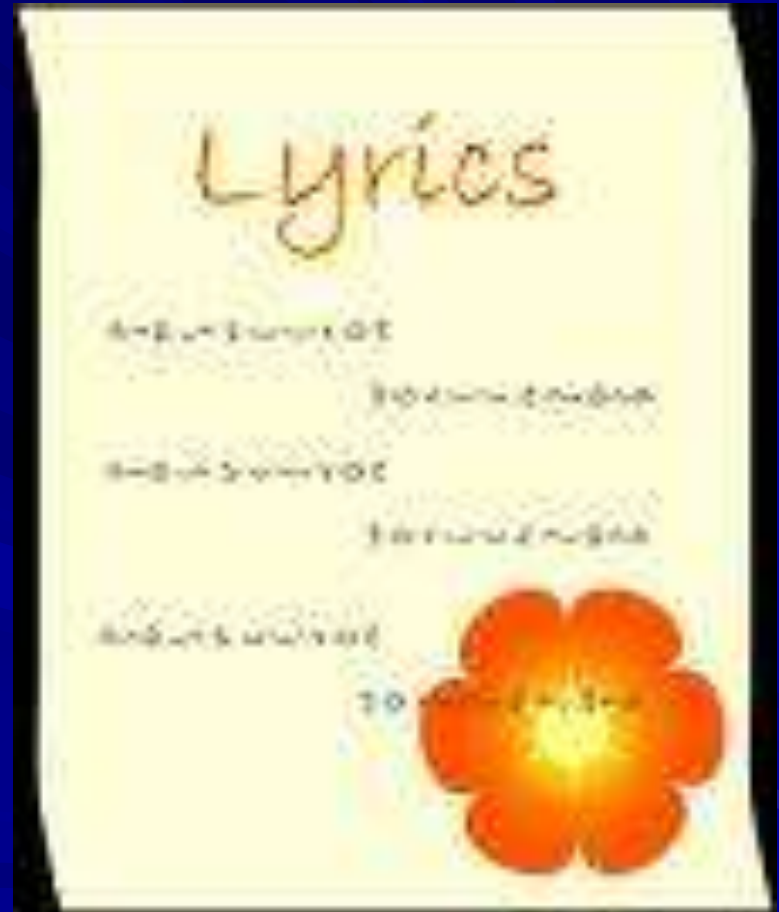
- Edward Lear

- *There was an Old Man with a beard,*
- *Who said, 'It is just as I feared!*
- *Two Owls and a Hen,*
- *Four Larks and a Wren,*
- *Have all built their nests in my beard!'*



Lyric

- **Lyric** A type of brief poem that expresses the personal emotions and thoughts of a single speaker. It is important to realize, however, that although the lyric is uttered in the first person, the speaker is not necessarily the poet. There are many varieties of lyric poetry, including the dramatic monologue, elegy, haiku, ode, and sonnet forms.





Ode

- **Ode** A relatively lengthy lyric poem that often expresses lofty emotions in a dignified style. Odes are characterized by a serious topic, such as truth, art, freedom, justice, or the meaning of life; their tone tends to be formal. There is no prescribed pattern that defines an ode; some odes repeat the same pattern in each stanza, while others introduce a new pattern in each stanza. See also lyric.

Sonnet

- **Sonnet** A fixed form of lyric poetry that consists of fourteen lines, usually written in **iambic pentameter**. There are two basic types of sonnets, the Italian and the English.





Final Thoughts

- Some might consider the study of **poetry** old fashioned, yet even in our hurried lives we are surrounded by it: children's rhymes, verses from songs, trite commercial jingles, well written texts. Any time we recognize words as interesting for sound, meaning or construct, we note poetics.