

# Unit Three: Poetry

*Understanding poetry:*

Essential Question: **How can understanding and analyzing poems offer insight into cultural beliefs and conflicts?** (write at top)

*Today we will take notes in two-column format as we learn some of what it takes to understand a poem.*

# What terms will we learn? (L)

- Allusion
- Diction
- Extended metaphor
- Figurative language: simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, idioms
- Imagery
- Meter
- Onomatopoeia
- Refrain
- Repetition
- Rhyme
- Rhythm
- Sonnet
- Speaker
- Stanza
- Symbol
- Theme
- Tone and Mood
- Types of stanzas: Octave, sestet, couplet, quatrain
- Understatement (**all terms R**)

# Tips on Reading Poetry

- ❖ Active or deliberate reading is important if we are going to enjoy a poem.
- ❖ Every poem can teach us something, but only if we take time to study it. Here are some tips on how to shift from passive to active reading:

# Question: How should I read a poem? (L)

- **1. Slow down while I read.** (R) The poem will remain a blur if you read it as fast as a newspaper or short story.



# Give it multiple readings...

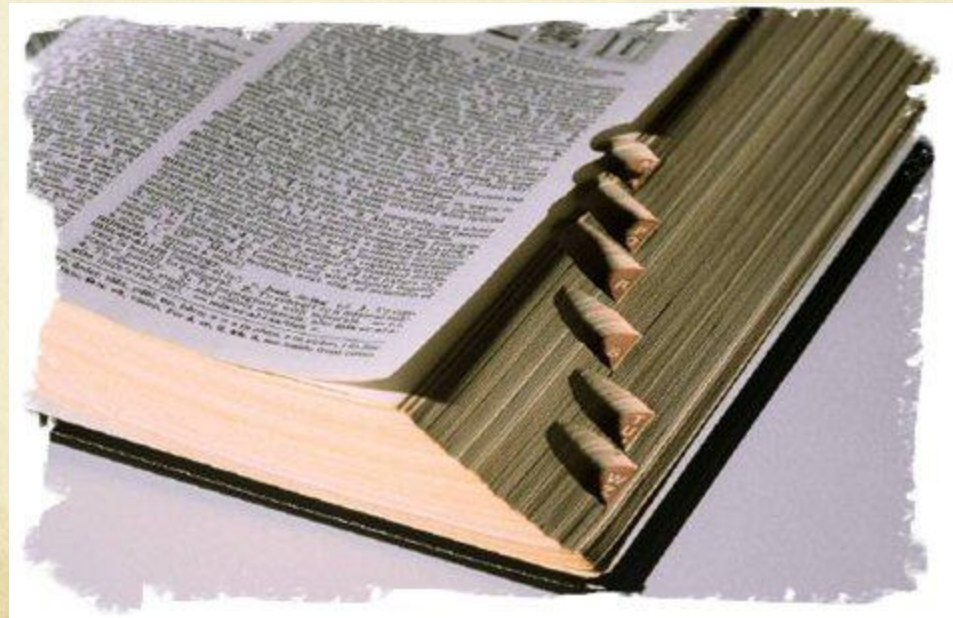
## Three at least:

2. Read first aloud for the sound and rhythm.
3. Read a second time to analyze the meaning.
4. Read a third time to look for poetic elements and to reinforce the content. (all R)



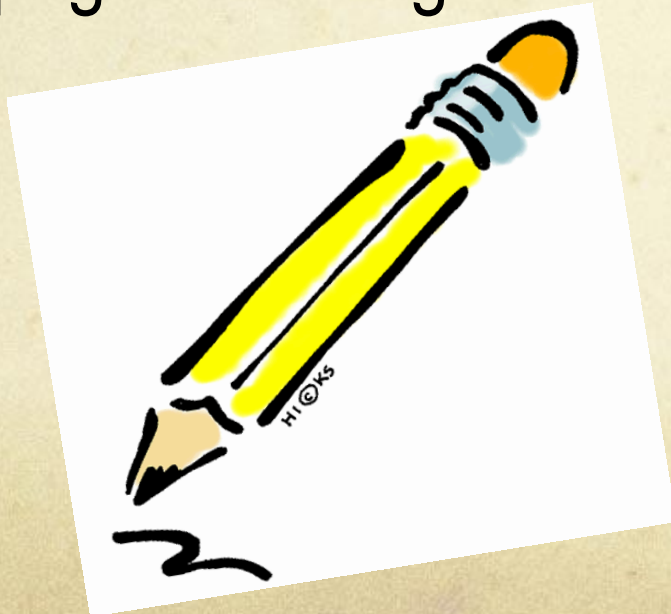
## 5. Go back to puzzling lines or phrases (R)

- Use your dictionary when needed. Online dictionaries provide quick and easy access to unfamiliar words!



# Use a pencil.

- If the book is your own, **# 6 underline what you like and circle what puzzles you.** (R) If you have looked up a new word, **# 7 pencil in brief definitions.** (R) If you are using a borrowed copy, consider photocopying the pages or using Post-it notes..



# What is S A L T T? (L)

One way to first approach a poem is to use S A L T T.

- **S=Speaker**—the voice of the poem. **Who is “telling” the poem?** (not the author)
- **A=Audience**— **What kind of reader was the poem meant for?**
- **L=Life message/Theme**: **What message or lesson does the poem communicate?**
- **T=Topics**: **What topics, ideas, and details support the poem’s message?**
- **T=Techniques**: **What poetic techniques and structure does the poem use? (all five items are on the right)**
- It only takes a minute to identify SALT T and it opens up needed information to you as a reader.



# What is S A L T T?

Now, you practice S A L T T...

- **S=Speaker:**
- **A=Audience:**
- **L=Life message/Theme:**
- **T=Topics:**
- **T=Techniques:**

# What questions should I ask? (L)

- **What type of poem is it? (R)** ...narrative, dramatic, lyric, epic poetry, ballad, limerick, sonnet, haiku, ode, concrete, free verse, and many more.
- **What is the pattern of stanzas in the poem?**
- **If a rhyme scheme is used, what is it?**
- **If written in a particular rhythm, what is the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables? (all on the R)**

# More questions to ask as you read...

- **If written in free verse, why was free verse chosen? (R)**
- **What use of symbols does the poem possibly include?**
- **What use of figurative language is included?...** metaphors, similes, personification, idioms, onomatopoeia, hyperbole
- **How does the figurative language add to the poem's overall effect?**
- **What sound devices are used?** —assonance, consonance, alliteration.
- **How do the sound devices enhance the way the poem sounds when read aloud? (all on R)**

# Why is the use of “lines” important in a poem? (L)

- Prose (non-poetry) uses sentences and paragraphs to divide ideas and thoughts. **Poets use individual lines and stanzas for dividing ideas.** (R) Thus, the poet, not the size of the paper, determines the end of the line.



# How do poems use imagery? (L)

- Poems use imagery, words and descriptions that appeal to the five senses. (R)
- The use of imagery in a poem helps the reader to **imagine** what the speaker is saying.



How do poets use sound devices to enhance the meaning of the poem? (L)

- Poems use rhyming, alliteration, repetition, and other sound techniques to enhance the sounds of words. (R)

*The curled cat clawed lazily at the chair*

*The floppy, sippy mop weighed her hands to the floor*

Clippity, clop, clippity clop, clippity clop went the hooves

# What is rhythm in a poem? (L)

- Rhythm is a pattern or beat that some poems use. (R)
- We can identify the rhythm by marking the syllables with dashes (/) and U's for stressed and unstressed syllables. (R)

✓ / ✓ / ✓ / ✓ / ✓ /  
But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks?

✓ / ✓ / ✓ / ✓ / ✓ / ✓ /  
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.

✓ / ✓ / ✓ / ✓ / ✓ / ✓ /  
Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,

# How do poems have creative density? (L)

- Poems often imply far more than is actually stated. (R)
- Analogy: A poem is like an iceberg. **Much of the poem's meaning is hidden below the surface. (R)** We examine a poem closely to discover what it has to say.
- Pages of ideas that might be developed in normal prose/writing are condensed down to a small group of emotionally heavy words and phrases.