

# Poetry Terms

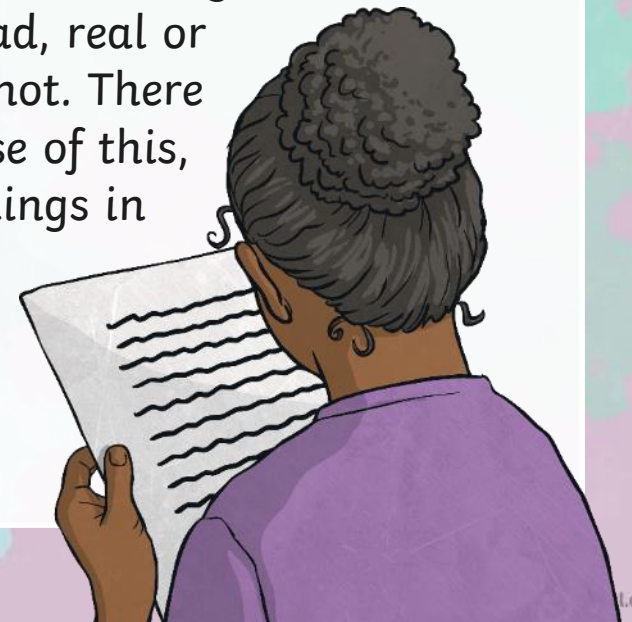


# Poetry

Poetry is a form of literature and a very wide genre of writing. It is a form of imaginative writing that can be written by anybody. People choose to write poetry based on many different things. Expressing thoughts and feelings about something in a creative way is what poetry is all about.

The main aim of poetry is to involve and stimulate the thoughts of the reader. Poetry can connect with a reader on an emotional level too.

Poetry has many different forms, and can be written in many different ways. They can be short or long, fun or sad, real or imagined, structured or unstructured, rhyming or not. There is a lot of freedom when writing poetry and because of this, the writer is able to express their thoughts and feelings in very unique ways.



# Poetry

There are many different types of poem including:

acrostic	sonnet	epic	blank verse
simile	colour	tetractys	pantoum
diamante	ballad	haiku	echo verse
limerick	renga	kenning	riddle
shape	cinquain	ode	free verse
tyburn	senryu	lyric	tanka

# Adjective Poetry

Adjectives are describing words. They are used in poetry to create many different effects and visual pictures to the reader. The adjectives can be used for a more in-depth description of a noun, or they can be used to add more excitement and attention within a line or verse.

**Some examples of effective adjectives:**

**Roaring** roads,

**Noisy** cars,

**Beaming** headlights,

**Tall** streetlamps,

**Dark, cold** night.

# Couplet Poetry

A couplet is a pair of lines. These two lines typically rhyme together. They are also the same length due to same number of syllables present.

**Couplets are used in poetry in order to create a rhyming flow.**

**Some examples of couplets within poems:**

**It's hard to see the butterfly,  
As it flies across the night sky.**

**I made the biscuits one by one,  
I'm waiting for the bell, they're done.**

**Lightning, thunder all around,  
So much rains falls to the ground.**



# Using Repetition

Repetition is when a certain word, sentence or phrase is written more than once in a poem.

Repetition is used in poetry to help make the poem more interesting, and to help create patterns. Depending on the word or phrase that is repeated, repetition allows for more emphasis to be placed on certain themes, ideas or objects.

**Some examples of where repetition can be used in poetry:**

**Using a refrain in a poem. This is where a verse or phrase is repeated during different stages of a song or poem.**

**Using a chorus in a poem. This is where a verse or phrase is repeated following each verse within a song or poem.**

**In an echo poem, the last word of each line can be repeated as a response in the next line.**

# Using Syllables

A syllable is a unit of written or spoken words.  
Syllables are broken up sounds that are used to create words.

**One syllable = monosyllabic**

**More than one syllable = polysyllabic**

Syllables are used in poetry to create rhythm.

**Look at the syllable pattern in this poem:**

**Cat, (1)**

**Fluffy, (2)**

**Catches mice, (3)**

**My faithful pet. (4)**



# Verb

**Verbs are doing words. They show actions within a sentence.**

Verbs are used in poetry to create a range of effects. They are used to create more interesting sentences, and to help describe what different people and objects are doing.

**Some examples of verbs:**

The boy **ran** along the shoreline.

The women **held** her baby tightly.

It **followed** her to school one day.





# Alliteration

**Alliteration is when the sound or letter at the beginning of each or most of the words in a sentence is the same.**

Alliteration is used in poetry to create many different effects. It can be used to create a greater and more interesting description of different themes, people and objects.

**Some examples of alliteration:**

**Sally sells sea shells by the sea shore.**

**All authors allow authority after midnight.**

**Theresa tripped and tumbled tremendously over the tree.**



# Rhyme

Rhyme occurs when two words sound the same when spoken out loud.

These words usually have the same ending sounds,  
however they don't need to be spelt the same.

Rhyme is used in poetry to create something interesting to read.

It is used to create a pattern within a poem.

## Some examples of rhyme:



**Fright and night**

**Would hood**

**Should could**

**Hail and pale**

**Male and stale**

**Air and fare**

**Two and do**

**Day and sway**

**Pause and claws**

**Bears and stairs**

# Simile

A simile is a figure of speech. It is when one thing is compared to another using the words 'like' or 'as'.

Similes can be as descriptive as the writer chooses.

Similes are used in poetry to give the reader a more descriptive and in-depth understanding about a particular object or person.

## Some examples of simile:

**As busy as a bee** – This is comparing someone's level of energy to the speed of a bee.

**As snug as a bug in a rug** – This is comparing someone who is very cosy to how comfortable a bug would be in a rug.

**Runs like a cheetah** – This is comparing the speed that someone can run to the speed of a cheetah which is quite fast.

**As white as a ghost** – This is comparing a person's skin colour to a ghost, usually because they are frightened, sick or scared of something.

# Synonym

A synonym is a word that has the same, or similar, meaning as another word. Synonyms can be found in a thesaurus.

Synonyms are used in poetry to be more graphic and to give a broader description.

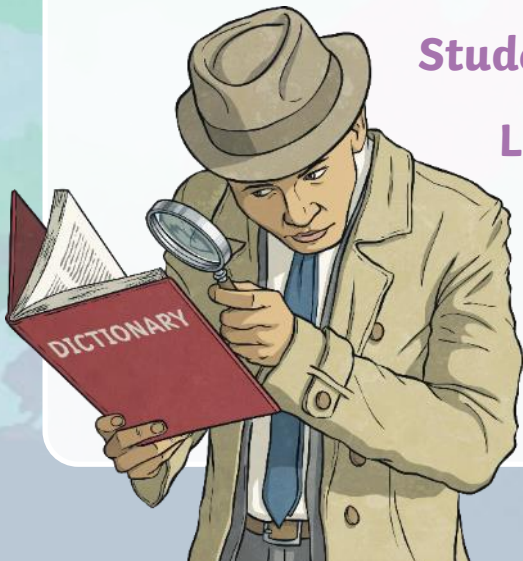
## Some examples of synonyms:

**Beautiful** – attractive, pretty, gorgeous, stunning

**Funny** – hysterical, humorous, amusing, entertaining

**Student** – pupil, scholar, schoolboy, schoolgirl

**Lazy** – idle, sluggish, indolent, slothful



# Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a figure of speech which involves an exaggeration of an idea. Hyperbole is used in poetry to provide strong effects and to provide great emphasis.

## Some examples of hyperbole:

**I'm so hungry that I could eat a horse.**

**It was so cold that I saw polar bears wearing jackets.**

**I had a million things to do.**

**That joke is so old, the last time I heard it  
I was walking next to a dinosaur.**





# Metaphor

A metaphor is a figure of speech which describes a place, object or subject as something unlikely and uncommon.

Metaphors are used in poetry to create an image of judgement and comparison in the mind of the reader.

## Some examples of metaphor:

**Her eyes were glistening jewels.**

**She is the sunshine which brightens up our day.**

**The kids at school are all brains.**

**In Andrew's eyes, Rebecca is the sun.**

**He is my knight in shining armour.**

**The world is a stage.**



# Stanza

A stanza is a group of lines gathered together by rhythmical pattern and meter. A stanza with four or more lines can be referred to as a verse. The length and pattern of a stanza decides what type of poem it is. Stanzas are made by leaving a blank space before and after it.

**Two lines = Couplet**

**Three lines = Tercet**

**Four lines = Quatrain**

**Five lines = Cinquain**

Stanzas are used in poetry to provide structure and form.

## Some examples of stanzas:



I love to dance,  
I love to prance.  
What my heart would do,  
But be sad and blue,  
If I could not dance.

**First Stanza**

Dancing feels nice,  
But it come at a price.  
Dancing tutus and shoes  
My gosh you can't lose!

**Second Stanza**

# Spoonerisms

A spoonerism is a deliberate error where letters or syllables are switched between words.

Some examples of spoonerisms:

**runny babbitt** instead of **bunny rabbit**

**belly jeans** instead of **jelly beans**

**flutter by** instead of **butterfly**

**Beeping Sleuty** instead of **Sleeping Beauty**



