

Poetry Review

Poetry: A concentrated form of language written in verse with vivid imagery, figurative language, rhythm and sometimes rhyme.

Understanding

When reading a poem you should employ the CAP method:

C...Comprehension

- What is the topic of the poem?
- What do you think is the poet's purpose in writing this poem?
- Who is the speaker in the poem?
- What is the attitude of the poet towards the topic?
- Give phrases to support your answer.

A... Analyse

- Identify the type of poem and support why you think it is so.
- **Explain** and give **examples** of techniques used in the poem.

P...Personal Response

- What feelings are you left with after reading this poem

Some Types of Poetry

Couplet: a pair of consecutive rhyming lines.	Free Verse: a form of poetry that does not follow a set rhythm or rhyme.	Blank Verse: unrhymed iambic pentameter {in the speeches of the major characters in Shakespeare's plays.} So it may have rhythm.	Epic: a long narrative poem, usually about a historical, religious or mythological subject. I.e. Beowulf.
Ballads: folk forms, originally meant to be sung rather than read. Now they are sung, chanted or recited. I.e. "The Cremation of Sam Magee"	Concrete Poetry: A form in which the shape and visual effects reflect the meaning.	Ode: Offers a serious treatment of a profound or weighty subject.	Limerick: 5 lines Rhyme scheme AABBA Humorous or nonsensical. Contains puns or word play. Usually about people and often begins with "There once was a ..."
Sonnets: a little song. Has a specific meter, most have 14 lines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italian-2 parts(8 lines and 6- lines) • Shakespearean-4 parts(4 lines, 4 lines, 4 lines – 2 lines) 	Haiku: 3-line pattern 1 st -5 syllables or words 2 nd - 7 syllables or words 3 rd - 5 syllables or words. It tries to "freeze" a moment in time or is nature focused.	Cinquain: a five line poem having a special purpose: 1 st -one word for title 2 nd -two words describe title 3 rd - three words describing action 4 th -four words describing a feeling 5 th -another word for title	Song: originally referred to as a poem intended to be sung; with change come to mean a poem that is lyrical or song-like. Shorter length of lines and <i>musicality</i> of its expression.

Techniques Used by Poets:

Rhyme Scheme: The way in which the poet arranges rhymes. I.e. AABBA

Sound Techniques

- **Alliteration:** The repetition of initial sounds at the beginnings of two or more words.
- **Assonance:** The repetition of vowel sounds within words
- **Onomatopoeia:** Words which imitate the sound they name such as buzz, boom, rumble

Figures of Speech

- **Similes:** a comparison between two generally unlike things, usually introduced by “like”, “as” or “than”
- **Metaphors:** implied comparison between two generally unlike things, usually referring to one object or attribute or action as if it were another not using “like”, “as” or “than”.
- **Personification:** a metaphor that attributes human characteristics to inanimate objects, animals, or abstract ideas.
- **Hyperbole:** an exaggeration or extravagant statement used as a figure of speech. I.e. “The book weighed a ton.”
- **Oxymoron:** a figure of speech that uses two normally contradictory terms, i.e. “Jumbo shrimp”

Diction

- **Word Choice:** Poets often try to be as economical [use the least amount as possible] in the words chosen to maximum the amount of meaning and effect packed into small portion print.
- **Word Play/Puns:** the use of two words that look or sound alike but have different meanings. Often used in humorous poems but can be in serious poems as well.
- **Imagery:** Imagery helps the reader to perceive more than the literal meaning of words and to respond to writing. Imagery uses language that appeals to any of the five senses.
 1. Taste/Gustatory
 2. Smell/Olfactory
 3. Touch/Tactile
 4. Hearing/Auditory
 5. Sight/Visual

Irony: A contrast between what is said and meant (**Verbal Irony**) or between what a reader expects to happen and what actually happens (**Situational Irony**)

Symbolism: A form of metaphor in which a person, place, thing or quality stand for a more complex meaning.

Stanza: a unit in the larger section of the poem similar to a paragraph.