

Poetry Term Review

1. **alliteration:** repetition of initial consonant sound in two or more closely associated words
2. **allegory:** narrative or description having a second meaning beneath the surface one.
3. **allusion:** a brief reference to a person, event, or thing that the writer assumes the reader will recognize.
4. **analogy:** a complex idea is compared to simple, more familiar idea (Love is..)
5. **antithesis:** contrasting or strongly opposing statements are balanced against each other for emphasis
6. **apostrophe:** addressing an absent person, thing, or idea as if it/he could appreciate it.
7. **archaic language:** characteristics of language of the past
8. **assonance:** close repetition of similar vowel sounds, usually in stressed syllables (like hat, ran, amber or vein, made)
9. **ballad:** fairly short narrative poem written in a song-like stanza form
10. **ballad stanza:**
11. **blank verse:** unrhymed iambic pentameter
12. **cacophony:** harsh, unpleasant combination of sounds or tones
euphony: word combinations that sound pleasant to the ear
13. **consonance:** repetition at the ends of lines or words with identical consonant sounds after different vowels (click and flock or yellow and shallow)
14. **contrast:** writing that highlights differences
15. **couplet:** two lines of verse with similar end rhymes
16. **didactic verse:** poems which seem to preach or moralize
17. **dissonance:** harsh sounds or discordance
18. **elegy:** mournful or reflective poem (usually about death)
19. **epic:** long, narrative poem in elevated language about legendary achievements or adventures
20. **epigram:** a short poem expressing a single idea, that is usually satirical and witty (Ex: Prose is the kind of writing everybody understands, poetry is the other kind.)
21. **extended metaphor:** developing a metaphor to explore further points of similarity
22. **euphemism:** an indirect statement is substituted for a direct one to avoid bluntness
23. **euphony:** musical effect of combining pleasant, harmonious sounds and rhythms
24. **figurative language:** writing that incorporates figurative language (metaphor, personification...) to gain strength and freshness of expression, as opposed to **literal language:** adhering strictly to the original meaning of the word or text
25. **form:** shape and structure of a work, as opposed to its content
26. **free verse:** poetry without structured form, rhyme scheme, or metre
27. **hyperbole:** deliberate exaggeration
28. **iambic pentameter:** unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable for five feet... there will always be ten syllables
(Once more/ unto/ the breech,/ dear friends/ once more;")
29. **image/imagery:** figurative language used to evoke mental pictures for an imaginative, emotional response
30. **internal rhyme:** rhyme occurring within the same line
31. **juxtaposition:** combining two (or more) unlikely elements close to each other...the effect is the shock created by the combination
32. **lyric:** poetry marked by emotion, melody, imagination, and a unified effect
33. **metaphor:** comparisons that are implied rather than directly expressed
34. **metonymy:** the name of one thing is substituted for that of another with which it is closely associated. (The pen is mightier than the sword or Vancouver beat Calgary)
35. **metre:** arranged pattern of rhythm in a line of verse
36. **octave:** first eight lines of an Italian sonnet

37. **ode:** a lyric poem of exalted, elaborate vocabulary and tone, often in praise of something
38. **onomatopoeia:** the use of sound to express the meaning
39. **oxymoron:** bringing together two contradictory terms (pretty ugly)
40. **paradox:** a statement that seems contradictory, yet is true (I lived in poverty and died rich or I must be cruel to be kind.)
41. **parody:** comical or satirical imitation of a well-known work
42. **pastoral:** an idealized image of rural life and nature
43. **personification:** giving animals, ideas, or things human form, character, or feeling
44. **quatrain:** a stanza of four lines
45. **refrain:** a line or group of lines that recurs at regular intervals, especially at the end of verses
46. **repetition:** of words, phrases or sounds to create rhythm or emphasis
47. **rhetorical question:** a question to which no reply is intended
48. **rhyme:** similarity in the sound of word endings
49. **rhyme scheme:** the pattern of the rhyme: ababbc...
50. **rhythm:** regular beat, accent, stress, rise and fall, etc...
51. **satire:** ridicules some aspect of humour behaviour, customs or attitudes in an attempt to bring about positive change
52. **sestet:** the last six lines of a sonnet
53. **sonnet:** a lyric poem of fourteen lines written in iambic pentameter. A **Shakespearean (English)** sonnet has this rhyme scheme: abab, cdcd, efef, gg. A **Petrarchan (Italian)** sonnet is composed of an octave and a sestet with a rhyme scheme of: abba abba cde cde (variation in the sestet)
54. **stanza:** lines of verse forming a separate unit within a poem ("paragraphs")
55. **simile:** comparison using like or as
56. **style:** combining the idea with the individuality (voice) of the author
57. **symbol:** something that exists in its own right, yet stands for something else
58. **symbolism:** the use of objects or actions to suggest ideas or emotions
59. **synecdoche:** a metaphor in which the part mentioned signifies the whole (He asked for her hand in marriage)
60. **theme:** the central or dominating idea(s)
61. **tone:** the author's attitude towards the subject
62. **understatement:** saying less than what we mean (The bombing in Hiroshima killed a few people.)
63. **wit:** humour of intellectual quality which is primarily expressed through ingenious phraseology, brilliant epigrams, clever comparisons, etc...