

## Poetry Terms

**Alliteration:** The repetition of identical consonant sounds, most often the sounds beginning words, in close proximity. Example: pensive poets, nattering nabobs of negativism.

**Allusion:** Unacknowledged reference and quotations that authors assume their readers will recognize.

**Anaphora:** Repetition of the same word or phrase at the beginning of a line throughout a work or the section of a work.

**Assonance:** The repetition of identical vowel sounds in different words in close proximity. Example: deep green sea.

**Ballad:** A narrative poem composed of quatrains (iambic tetrameter alternating with iambic trimeter) rhyming x-a-x-a. Ballads may use refrains. Examples: "Jackaroe," "The Long Black Veil"

**Blank verse:** unrhymed iambic pentameter. Example: Shakespeare's plays

**Consonance Definition.** Consonance refers to repetitive sounds produced by consonants within a sentence or phrase. This repetition often takes place in quick succession such as in pitter, patter. It is classified as a literary term used in both poetry as well as prose.

**Couplet:** two successive rhyming lines. Couplets end the pattern of a Shakespearean sonnet.

**Diction:** Diction is usually used to describe the level of formality that a speaker uses.

- Diction (formal or high): Proper, elevated, elaborate, and often polysyllabic language. This type of language used to be thought the only type suitable for poetry
- Neutral or middle diction: Correct language characterized by directness and simplicity.
- Diction (informal or low): Relaxed, conversational and familiar language.

**Dramatic Situation** the underlying plot line that is created to place the characters in conflict with themselves or others.

### English sonnet

1. another term for Elizabethan sonnet (a type of sonnet much used by Shakespeare, written in iambic pentameter and consisting of three quatrains and a final couplet with the rhyme scheme abab cdcd efef gg.)

**Enjambment-** (in verse) the continuation of a sentence without a pause beyond the end of a line, couplet, or stanza.

**Foot (prosody):** A measured combination of heavy and light stresses. The numbers of feet are given below. monometer (1 foot) dimeter (2 feet) trimeter (3 feet) tetrameter (4 feet) pentameter (5 feet) hexameter (6 feet) heptameter or septenary (7 feet)

**Free Verse:** poetry that does not rhyme or have a regular meter.

**Heroic couplet:** two successive rhyming lines of iambic pentameter; the second line is usually end-stopped.

**Hymn meter or common measure:** quatrains of iambic tetrameter alternating with iambic trimeter rhyming a b a b.

**Hyperbole (overstatement)** and litotes (understatement): Hyperbole is exaggeration for effect; litotes is understatement for effect, often used for irony.

**Iambic pentameter:** Iamb (iambic): an unstressed stressed foot. The most natural and common kind of meter in English; it elevates speech to poetry.

**Idiom** a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words (e.g., *rain cats and dogs*, *see the light* ).

**Image:** Images are references that trigger the mind to fuse together memories of sight (visual), sounds (auditory), tastes (gustatory), smells (olfactory), and sensations of touch (tactile). Imagery refers to images throughout a work or throughout the works of a writer or group of writers.

**Implied Listener** all poems have a silent or implied listener/reader, an addressee.

**Internal rhyme:** An exact rhyme (rather than rhyming vowel sounds, as with assonance) within a line of poetry: "Once upon a midnight **dreary**, while I pondered, weak and **weary**."

**Lyrical Poetry** - a type of emotional song-like poetry, distinguished from dramatic and narrative poetry

**Metaphor:** A comparison between two unlike things, this describes one thing as if it were something else. Does not use "like" or "as" for the comparison (see **simile**).

**Meter:** The number of feet within a line of traditional verse. Example: iambic pentameter.

**Octave:** The first eight lines of an Italian or Petrarchan sonnet, unified by rhythm, rhyme, and topic.

**Ode** a lyric poem in the form of an address to a particular subject, often elevated in style or manner and written in varied or irregular meter.

**Onomatopoeia.** A blending of consonant and vowel sounds designed to imitate or suggest the activity being described. Example: buzz, slurp.

**Paradox:** A rhetorical figure embodying a seeming contradiction that is nonetheless true.

**Persona** from the Latin for mask, is a character taken on by a poet to speak in a first-person poem.

**Personification:** Attributing human characteristics to nonhuman things or abstractions.

**Petrarchan sonnet:**

A sonnet (14 lines of rhyming iambic pentameter) that divides into an octave (8) and sestet (6). There is a "volta," or "turning" of the subject matter between the octave and sestet.

a sonnet form popularized by Petrarch, consisting of an octave with the rhyme scheme abbaabba and of a sestet with one of several rhyme schemes, as cdecde or cdcdcd. Expand. Also called Italian sonnet. Origin of Petrarchan sonnet. 1905-1910.

**Poetry** literary work in which special intensity is given to the expression of feelings and ideas by the use of distinctive style and rhythm; poems collectively or as a genre of literature.

**Prose** written or spoken language in its ordinary form, without metrical structure.

**Refrain:** repeated word or series of words in response or counterpoint to the main verse, as in a ballad.

**Repetition:** In poetry, repetition is repeating words, phrases, lines, or stanzas. Stanzas are groups of lines that are together. Repetition is used to emphasize a feeling or idea, create rhythm, and/or develop a sense of urgency.

**Rhyme:** The repetition of identical concluding syllables in different words, most often at the ends of lines. Example: June--moon.

- **Double rhyme or trochaic rhyme:** rhyming words of two syllables in which the first syllable is accented (flower, shower)
- **Triple rhyme or dactylic rhyme:** Rhyming words of three or more syllables in which any syllable but the last is accented. Example: Macavity/gravity/depravity
- **Eye rhyme:** Words that seem to rhyme because they are spelled identically but pronounced differently. Example: bear/fear, dough/cough/through/bough
- **Slant rhyme:** A near rhyme in which the concluding consonant sounds are identical but not the vowels. Example: sun/noon, should/food, slim/ham.
- **Rhyme scheme:** The pattern of rhyme, usually indicated by assigning a letter of the alphabet to each rhyme at the end of a line of poetry.

**Rhyme royal:** Stanza form used by Chaucer, usually in iambic pentameter, with the rhyme scheme ababbcc. Example: Wordsworth's "Resolution and Independence"

**Rhyme Scheme**-the ordered pattern of rhymes at the ends of the lines of a poem or verse.

**Shakespearean sonnet:** A fourteen-line poem written in iambic pentameter, composed of three quatrains and a couplet rhyming abab cdcd efef gg.

**Simile.** A direct comparison between two dissimilar things; uses "like" or "as" to state the terms of the comparison.

**Sonnet:** A closed form consisting of fourteen lines of rhyming iambic pentameter.

Shakespearean or English sonnet: 3 quatrains and a couplet, often with three arguments or images in the quatrains being resolved in the couplet. Rhyme scheme: abab cdcd efef gg

Petrarchan or Italian sonnet: 8 lines (the "octave") and 6 lines (the "sestet") of rhyming iambic pentameter, with a turning or "volta" at about the 8th line. Rhyme scheme: abba abba cdcdcd (or cde cde)

**Stanza:** A group of poetic lines corresponding to paragraphs in prose; the meters and rhymes are usually repeating or systematic.

**Syntax:** Word order and sentence structure.

**Tone**, in written composition, is an attitude of a writer toward a subject or an audience.

**Tone** is generally conveyed through the choice of words, or the viewpoint of a writer on a particular subject. ... The **tone** can be formal, informal, serious, comic, sarcastic, sad, or cheerful, or it may be any other existing attitude.