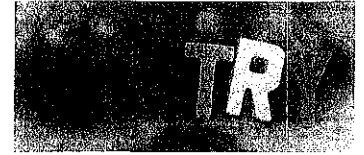




Elements of Poetry



Rhyme Scheme is rhymed words at the ends of lines. **Example:** Roses are red, violets are blue. Sugar is sweet, and so are you.

Free verse is also called open form poetry. It refers to poems characterized by their nonconformity to established patterns of meter, rhyme, and stanza. Free verse uses elements such as speech patterns, grammar, emphasis, and breath pauses to decide line breaks, and usually does not rhyme.

Couplet is a style of poetry defined as a complete thought written in two lines with rhyming ends. **Example:** So long as men can breathe or eyes can see, So long as lives this, and this gives life to thee.

Onomatopoeia is a word that imitates the sound it represents. **Example:** splash, wow, gush, kerplunk

Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds but not consonant sounds as in consonance. **Example:** fleet feet sweep by sleeping geeks.

Consonance is the repetition of consonant sounds, but not vowels, as in assonance. **Example:** lady lounges lazily, dark deep dread crept in.

Alliteration is the repetition of initial sounds in neighboring words. **Example:** sweet smell of success, a dime a dozen, bigger and better, jump for joy

Allusion is a brief reference to a person, event, or place, real or fictitious, or to a work of art. It's also a casual reference to a famous historical or literary figure or event. An allusion may be drawn from history, geography, literature, or religion. **Example:** Stephen Vincent Benet's story "By the Waters of Babylon" contains a direct reference to Psalm 137 in the Bible.

Metaphor is a comparison of two unlike things using the verb "to be" and not using like or as in a simile. **Example:** He is a pig. Thou art sunshine.

Simile is the comparison of two unlike things using *like* or *as*. Example: He eats like a pig. Vines like golden prisons.

Personification is a figure of speech where animals, ideas or inorganic objects are given human characteristics.

Narrative poem is a poem that tells a story.

Limerick is light verse consisting of a stanza of five lines (rhyming AABBA). Limericks are almost always humorous in tone.

Haiku is a Japanese lyric form which presents a vivid picture and presents the poet's impression, often with suggestions of spiritual insight. The traditional haiku is three lines long: the first of five syllables, the second of seven, and the third of five.

Sonnet is a distinctive poetic style that uses system or pattern of metrical structure and verse composition usually consisting of fourteen lines, arranged in a set rhyme scheme or pattern.

Ballad is a narrative folk song. Subjects for ballads include killings, feuds, deaths, important historical events, and rebellion.

Lyrical is a song-like poem written mainly to express the feelings of emotions or thought from a particular person, thus separating it from narrative poems.

Hyperbole is exaggeration or overstatement. Example: I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.

Imagery is language that evokes one or all of the five senses: seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling, touching.

Quatrains are four-line poems that may follow any one of four different rhyme patterns (AABB, ABAB, ABBA, or ABCB) When quatrains are combined to make a long poem, each group of four lines is called a stanza.