Poetry Unit Terms

**Rhyme-** the repetition or duplication of approximate or exact sounds, usually in a pattern, and usually involving sounds of words at the end of the line.

1. **Single rhyme**- late, date, bait, call, fall, wall, ball
2. **Double rhyme**- battle, rattle, settle, cattle eating, beating, meeting, sleeping
3. **Triple rhyme**- discovering, uncovering, recovering, quivering, shivering, glorious, victorious
4. **Slant rhyme(a.k.a Eye rhyme, or Imperfect rhyme)-** appears to rhyme, but when actually spoken does not. EX: jove, dove, good, food, hour, four
5. **Internal rhyme-** rhyme contained within a verse

EX: The splendor **falls** on the castle **walls**

The long light **shakes** across the **lake**

1. **End-stop rhyme-**there is a pause at the end of each line of a stanza indicated by punctuation.

EX: The weeping child could not be heard;

The weeping parents wept in vain—

1. **Enjambment**- there is not a pause at the end of each line but rather the work is read sentence by sentence.

EX: Somehow to find a still spot in the noise

Was the frayed inner want, the winding, the frayed hope

Whose tatters he kept hunting through the din.

1. **Alliteration**- repetition of consonant or vowel sounds at the beginning of the words in a line or verse.

EX: The fair **breeze blew**, the wind **foam flew**;

The **furrow followed free**.

1. **Assonance**-repetition of vowel sounds in stressed syllables that end with different consonant sounds.

EX: Sw**ift** Cam**illa** Sk**ims** the S**ilk**en S**ea**

1. **Consonance**- repetition of consonant sounds at the end of or in the middle of words in a line of poetry. The consonant sounds are similar, but the vowels which precede them differ

EX: Add, read, bed; bill, ball, bowl

1. **Onomatopoeia**- a blending of consonant and vowel sounds designed to imitate or suggest a situation or action.

EX: Pop, fizz, slap, meow, buzz

1. **Euphony**- use of compatible, harmonious sounds to produce a pleasing, melodious effect.
2. **Cacophony**- The use of inharmonious sounds in close conjunction for effect.
3. **Allusion**-a brief reference to a person, place, think, event, or idea in history or literature. Allusions conjure up biblical authority, scenes from Shakespeare plays, historical figures, wars, great love stories, or anything else that might enrich an author’s work.
4. **Apostrophe**- a figure of speech in which a speaker directly addresses an absent person or personified quality, object or idea. It is often used in poetry or speeches to add emotional intensity.
5. **Repetition**- Repetition is a common component of poetry and may appear as a single word or phrase used throughout a poem or as an entire stanza reused repeatedly. Different poets have used repetition in poetry to achieve many different ends, ranging from emphasizing a particular point to making a poem easier to memorize.
6. **Anastrophe**- inversion of the normal syntactic order of words, for example: To market went she.
7. **Connotation**-association and implications that go beyond the literal meaning of a word, which derive from how the word has been commonly used and the association people make with it. EX Eagle--freedom and liberty.
8. **Denotation**- the dictionary meaning of a word
9. **Elegy**-a mournful, contemplative lyric poem written to commemorate someone who is dead, often ending in a consolation. EX: Whitman’s “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d”
10. **Epigram**- a brief, pointed, and witty poem that usually makes a satiric or humorous point EX: “A Plowman on his legs is higher than a gentleman on his knees.”(Franklin)
11. **Heroic Couplet**- couplet ( 2 consecutive lines that usually rhyme and have the same meter) written in rhymed iambic pentameter.
12. **Hyperbole**- boldly exaggerated statement that adds emphasis without intending to be literally true, as in the statement, “He ate everything in the house.” Also called overstatement, hyperbole may be used for serious, comic, or ironic effect.
13. **Lyric**- brief poem that expresses the personal emotions and thoughts of a single speaker. It is important to realize that although the lyric is uttered in the first person, the speaker is not necessarily the poet. (Elegy, ode, and sonnet are types of lyric poems). This is the most common type of poem form.
14. **Metonymy**- a type of metaphor in which something closely associated with a subject is substituted for it. IN this way, we speak of the “silver screen” to mean motion picture, “the crown” to represent the king, “the White House” to represent the activities of the president.
15. **Paradox**- statement that initially appears to be contradictory, but then on closer inspection, X: “Death, hou shalt Die.” John Donne. An oxymoron is a condensed version of a paradox in which two contradictory words are used together: jumbo shrimp.
16. **Pastoral**-a highly conventional mode of writing that celebrates the innocent life of shepherds and shepherdesses in poetry, plays and prose romances. Pastoral literature describes the loves and sorrows of musical shepherds—usually in an idealized Golden age of rustic innocence and idleness.
17. **Imagery**- These poems are largely concerned with the use of strong and evocative images to create a highly visual, imaginative reading experience.
18. **Synecdoche**-figure of speech in which a part of something is used to stand for the whole thing. EX: when a gossip is called a “wagging tongue” or 10 ships called “ten sails”. Sometimes they refer to the whole being used to refer to the part. EX: “St. Louis won the baseball game.” Clearly, the entire city did not participate.
19. **Ode**- ODE- A formal, often ceremonious lyric poem that addresses and often celebrates a person, place, thing, or idea. Its stanza forms vary. Odes are long poems which are serious in nature
20. **Concrete**-which the typographical arrangement of words is as important in conveying the intended effect as the conventional elements of the poem, such as meaning of words, rhythm, rhymes and so on.
21. **Sonnet**- SONNET- A 14-line poem with a variable rhyme scheme. Literally a “little song,” the sonnet traditionally reflects upon a single sentiment, with a clarification or “turn” of thought in its concluding lines. (English vs Italian)

* **The structure of a Shakespearean, or English sonnet:** sonnet consists of fourteen lines written in [iambic pentameter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iambic_pentameter), in which a pattern of an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable is repeated five times. The rhyme scheme in a Shakespearean sonnet is *a-b-a-b, c-d-c-d, e-f-e-f, g-g*; the last two lines are a rhyming couplet.
* **The structure of a typical Italian Sonnet** of this time included two parts that together formed a compact form of "argument". First, the [octave](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Octave_(poetry)) (two [quatrains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quatrain)), forms the "proposition," which describes a "problem," or "question," followed by a [sestet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sestet) (two [tercets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tercet)), which proposes a "resolution." Typically, the ninth line initiates what is called the "turn," or "volta," which signals the move from proposition to resolution. Even in sonnets that don't strictly follow the problem/resolution structure, the ninth line still often marks a "turn" by signaling a change in the tone, mood, or stance of the poem.

1. **Inversion**- By definition, inversion is the reversal of the normal word order in a sentence or phrase. Inversion is usually used when writing poetry because an author may want to move the word order around so that the words at the end of the lines rhyme.   
   Yoda, the Jedi master, speaks almost entirely in inversion.
2. **Personification**- *Personification* is a long word with a simple meaning. The root word in *personification* is *person.* That gives you a clue to the word's meaning. It's the technique of using human qualities to describe an object, idea, or animal. A red balloon, the wind, your pet, or justice can each be personified if it suits the writer's purpose. Personification gives the reader a fresh look at something familiar!
3. **Symbol**- Something in the world of the senses, including an action, that reveals or is a sign for something else, often abstract or otherworldly. A rose, for example, has long been considered a symbol of love and affection.
4. **Epigraph**- A quotation from another literary work that is placed beneath the title at the beginning of a poem or section of a poem. For example, Grace Schulman’s [“American Solitude”](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/archive/poem.html?id=171380) opens with a quote from an essay by [Marianne Moore](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/archive/poet.html?id=4780)
5. **Conceit**- The Metaphysical poets of the seventeenth century enjoyed creating particularly audacious metaphors and similes to compare very unlike things, and drawing attention to how skillfully they could sustain this comparison; this became known as the conceit. The classic example is Donne's 'The Flea', in which a flea-bite is compared to a marriage, and like most conceits, the extended comparison is more notable for its invention than its believability.
6. **Ballad-** A popular narrative song passed down orally in poetic form. In the English tradition, it usually follows a form of rhymed (ABCB) quatrains alternating four-stress and three-stress lines. Tells a story similar to a folk tale or legend and often has a repeated refrain.