

Poetry Vocabulary Terms

1. Alliteration—the repetition of the same sound, usually a consonant, at the beginning of two or more words immediately succeeding each other or at short intervals.
2. Ballad—narrative poem that tells a simple and dramatic story, usually sung or recited
3. Biographic—a poem that illustrates characteristics and attributes of the subject studied using adjectives and other parts of speech.
4. Cinquain—short poem consisting of five lines arranged in the following structure: line one states a subject in one word, line two describes the subject in two words, line three describes an action about the subject in three words, line four expresses an emotion about the subject in four words (or describes the subject again in two words), line five restates the subject in another single word.
5. Concrete poem—the shape of a poem on the page looks like the subject of the poem
6. Diamante—a seven line poem in the shape of a diamond. The first and last lines have one word, with the middle line being the longest. Often the first word and the last word are opposites.
7. Figurative language—language interpreted with the actual meaning of the words
8. Free verse—a poem of irregular rhythms and varied line lengths
9. Haiku—five syllables in the first and third lines, and seven syllables in the second line originally created in Japan.
10. Imagery—words that create a picture
11. Limerick—form of light verse consisting of five lines and rhymed: aabba. The first, second and fifth lines contain three feet while the third and fourth lines contain two feet. The form was popularized by Victorian poet Edward Lear. Lear used the same word at the end of the first and fifth lines.

12. Lyric poetry—poetry that expresses the poet's thoughts and feelings by not telling a story
13. Metaphor—a comparison without like or as
14. Narrative poem—an extended poem that tells a story Personification—a figure of speech in which an animal, object, or idea is given human characteristics
15. Onomatopoeia—the formation of a word that imitates a sound
16. Rhythm—a regular pattern of sound, time intervals, or events occurring in writing
17. Rhyme—a pattern of repeated sounds
18. Stanza—a major subdivision in a poem. A stanza of two lines is called a couplet; a stanza of three lines is called a tercet; a stanza of four lines is called a quatrain. Robert Frost's "Acquainted with the Night," consists of four rhymed tercets followed by a rhymed couplet.
19. Simile—comparison between two basically unlike things using like or as
20. Tanka—classic form of Japanese poetry related to the haiku with five unrhymed lines of five, seven, five, seven, and seven syllables. (5,7,5, 7 ,7)