

## Poetry Words to Know

**ALLITERATION:** The repetition of consonant sounds, usually at the beginning of words.

**ALLUSION:** A literary reference to a famous person, place, event or other work.

**ASSONANCE:** The repetition of vowel sounds, usually within words.

**CONNOTATION:** An emotional response or suggestions that a word triggers within the reader.

**DENOTATION:** The literal dictionary meaning of a word

**END RHYME:** The repetition of similar sounds that come at the ends of lines.

**FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE:** All the tools a poet uses to create a special effect or feeling—metaphor, simile, alliteration, etc.

**FORM:** The arrangement, manner or method used to convey the content, such as free verse, couplet, limerick, haiku, etc.

**FREE VERSE:** Poetry written without a regular pattern of meter or rhyme.

**HYPERBOLE:** Extreme exaggeration of the truth for emphasis or humor.

**IMAGERY:** Figurative language that appeals to the five senses (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste) to create a mental picture.

**METAPHOR:** A comparison of two completely different objects as being the same without using the words *like* or *as*.

**METER:** The pattern of stressed (strong) & unstressed (weak) syllables in a poem.

**MOOD:** The feeling created in the reader by a poem or story.

**ONOMATOPOEIA:** The use of words to imitate the sounds they describe.

**OXYMORON:** The pairing of two words that appears to contradict one another.

**PERSONIFICATION:** An animal, object, or idea is given human qualities.

**RHYME:** The matching of final vowel or consonant sounds in two or more words.

**RHYME SCHEME:** A repeated regular pattern of rhymes in a poem or stanza.

**RHYTHM:** The musical quality created by a pattern of beats or a series of stressed and unstressed syllables.

**SIMILE:** a comparison between unlike things using the words *like*, *as*, or *as though*.

**STANZA:** A group of lines in a poem set off by blank lines.

**SYMBOL:** An object or action that stands for something beyond itself.

**TONE:** The implied attitude of a writer (or speaker) toward the audience, the subject, and characters of a work.

## Traditional Forms of Poetry:

Cinquain - A type of poem which is five lines long (Cinq means five in French).

Couplet - A rhymed pair of lines in a poem.

Haiku - Seventeen unrhymed syllables organized into three lines.

Limerick - A funny or nonsensical poem with five lines.

Lyric - A short poem that expresses a poet's thoughts & feelings in a musical way.

Narrative - A poem that tells a story and usually has all the elements of a short story—character, setting, conflict, and plot.

Quatrain - a stanza or poem with 4 lines.

Ode - A ceremonious poem written for occasion of personal or private dignity.

Sonnet - A 14 line verse poem following one of several set rhyme-schemes.