

Poetry Vocabulary Cheat Sheet

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Alliteration

The repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words.

Assonance

The repetition of vowel sounds within non-rhyming words.

Ballad

A narrative poem that tells a story, often in a musical rhythm.

Couplet

Two consecutive lines of poetry that rhyme.

Enjambment

The continuation of a sentence or phrase from one line of poetry to the next.

Free Verse

Poetry that does not rhyme or have a regular meter.

Haiku

A traditional form of Japanese poetry consisting of three lines with a syllable pattern of 5-7-5.

Hyperbole

An exaggerated statement not meant to be taken literally.

Imagery

Descriptive language that appeals to the senses.

Metaphor

A figure of speech that compares two things without using 'like' or 'as'.

Onomatopoeia

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A word that imitates the sound it represents.

Personification

Attributing human characteristics to non-human things.

Rhyme Scheme

The pattern of rhymes at the end of each line of a poem.

Simile

A figure of speech comparing two things using 'like' or 'as'.

Stanza

A grouped set of lines within a poem, often set apart by a blank line.

Symbolism

The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.

Theme

The underlying message or big idea of a poem.

Tone

The attitude or approach that the poet takes toward the poem's theme.

Notes: