

Poetry Terms 7/8

POETRY:

the art of expressing thought and feeling in lines or groups of lines characterized by repetitions of rhythms and sounds. Poetry has language that focuses on expression.

RHYME:

repetition of the sound, usually at the end of lines, achieved by the use of syllables ending in the same vowel and consonant.

Ex. Horn and morn

RHYTHM:

is the beat or tempo of a poem

STANZA:

a part of the poem consisted of an organized group of lines, often having the same number of lines and rhythm as the other parts of the poem.

LITERAL LANGUAGE:

words and expressions that **are** meant exactly as they are written or said.

LITERAL MEANING:

summarizing the events in each stanza of a poem in your own words. You should summarize every 3-4 lines in the poem with one sentence.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE:

words and expressions that **are not** meant exactly as they are written or said.

Ex: It is raining *cats and dogs*.

DENOTATION:

The dictionary definition of a word.

CONNOTATION:

The association that a word may have apart from its accepted definition.

Ex. Black - Death or evil.

CONTEXT:

The meaning of the word according to the way in which it is used. The meaning of words change depending on the words that surround them.

IMAGERY:

a mental picture created by using words and the five senses (taste, touch, hearing, smell and sight).

SIMILE:

a figure of speech in which two things are compared to show how they are alike; the words 'like' or 'as' are used in the comparison.

Ex. Her cheeks were red like roses.

METAPHOR:

a figure of speech in which two things are compared NOT using 'like' or 'as'.

Ex. She is a snake.

PERSONIFICATION:

a figure of speech in which non-human things are given human characteristics.

Ex. The clouds *danced* across the sky.

SYMBOL:

When one thing represents something else.

Ex. A dove represents peace.

ALLITERATION:

is the usage of similar sounding first letters in a group of words.

Ex. The teeming trout twinkled below.

ONOMATOPOEIA:

refers to the repetition of a sound meant to resemble what it is describing.

Ex. Buzz, hiss, cuckoo

SPEAKER:

The person whose thoughts and feelings are given in a poem. The speaker may be the author or an imaginary person.

MOOD:

a state of mind or feeling the author creates in the reader

Ex. Happiness, sadness, peacefulness.

TONE:

The author's attitude towards his subject.

Ex. Humorous, ironic, sympathetic, sarcastic.

How to Analyze A Poem

1. Read the poem through once to get the overall meaning.
2. Make sure you look at the title because it can help you understand the poem
3. Then read a second time and read each line slowly and carefully, look at the figurative language carefully for meaning
4. Look at the questions (they can give clues to help understand the poem) and then read the poem one more time.
5. Then you should be able to summarize the poem in your own words.

How to Answer a Simile/Metaphor Question

1. Opening Sentence/Definition
2. Write down the simile or metaphor
3. Tell what two things are being compared
4. Tell how they are similar
5. Is it effective - is it a good comparison?
6. Closing sentence