

## Poetry Parts

caesura-a pause in poetry that is dictated by the natural rhythm of language, and not by the end of a line

chorus-(see Refrain)

couplet-A pair of successive rhyming lines, usually of the same length

end rhyme-A rhyme occurring in last words or syllables of successive lines of poetry.

foot-The combination of stressed and unstressed syllables which make up the metric unit of a line.

iambic pentameter-A metrical line of five feet or units, each made up of an unstressed then a stressed syllable.

internal Rhyme-Rhyme that occurs within a single line of poetry. Usually achieved with assonance.

line-A horizontal row of written or printed characters.

meter-The recurrence of a rhythmic pattern.

- Falling meters: a stressed syllable followed by one (trochees) or two (dactyls) unstressed syllables.
- Rising meters: one (iamb) or two (anapests) unstressed syllables followed by a stressed one.

quatrain-A poem, unit, or stanza of four lines of verse, usually with a rhyme scheme of *abab*. It is the most common stanza form.

refrain-A line, or part of a line, or group of lines, which is repeated in the course of a poem, sometimes with slight changes, usually at the end of each stanza.

rhyme scheme- Examination of the last word of each line to determine if a rhyming pattern exists within stanzas. They establish a pattern represented by letters of the alphabet (*aabb*, *abab*, *abcabc*).

rhythm-The pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line of poetry. Poets use rhythm to bring out the musical quality of language, to emphasize ideas, to create mood, to unify a work, or to heighten emotional response.

stanza- Italian for a stopping place. Group of lines in a poem that form a metrical or thematic unit. They are like paragraphs in prose. They are usually separated from other stanzas by a blank space on the page.

- Some common stanza forms are the couplet (two lines), tercet (three lines), quatrain (four lines), sestet (six lines), and octave (eight lines).

## Poetry Forms

In poetry, the form is the way you write your poem. It can be very rule oriented or it can be free of rules. Rules for form might include the number of words, indentations, capitalization, number of syllables, placement of rhymed words, and/or the number or placement of lines.

acrostic-A poem in which the first letters of successive lines form a word or pattern. The vertical word is often the subject of the poem. The term is derived from the Greek words akros, "at the end," and stichos, "line."

ballad-Narrative poem usually simple and fairly short, originally designed to be sung. Usually it consists of four rhyming lines but sometimes uses six lines.

blank verse-The unrhymed counterpart of many types of poems that is not divided into stanzas. It is written using a set metrical pattern (the meter, whatever it is, stays regular within itself--in other words, it doesn't change throughout the poem)

cinquain- Five line poem that usually uses the specific structure of 2-4-6-8-2 syllables. It often has a nature theme and describes one thing. It often resembles a diamond and was invented by American, Adelaide Crapsey.

concrete poem/carmen figuratum-(Shape Poem) Poem that forms a visible picture on the page. The shape usually reflects the subject of the poem.

couplet-Two lines of verse that usually rhyme and have the same meter, they are often used to end other types of poetry, particularly the sonnet.

diamante-A seven line poem that goes from a subject at the top of the diamond to another totally different (and sometimes opposite) subject at the bottom. Each line follows a specific pattern:

- line 1- one noun (subject #1)
- line 2- two adjectives about subject #1
- line 3- three present participles (verbs ending in -ing) telling about subject #1
- line 4- four nouns (first two about subject #1, second two about subject #2)
- line 5- three present participles about subject #2
- line 6- two adjectives about subject #2
- line 7- one noun (subject #2)

dirge-Lyrical poem or song of lament composed in memory of the dead. In contrast to an elegy, the principle aim of the dirge is to lament the dead, rather than to console survivors.

elegy-A poem of lament, praise, and consolation, usually formal and sustained, over the death of a particular person; also, a meditative poem in plaintive or sorrowful mood.

epic-A long narrative poem, usually about a historical, religious, or mythological subject.

free verse-A style of poetry that does not follow rules of poetic composition. When poets write free verse they try not to use regular meter or rhyme. Usually has its own internal structure which give it a sense of unity and coherence.

haiku-An ancient Japanese form with no rhyme. Haiku often deals with nature. This type of poetry has three lines with a fixed number of syllables:

Line 1= 5 syllables

Line 2= 7 syllables

Line 3= 5 syllables

legend-A poem of a national or folk hero which has a basis in fact, but also contains fictional material.

limerick-A limerick is a funny, five-line poem with a strong beat. It has a rhyme scheme of *aabba*. Lines 1,2,and 5 each have three beats. Lines 3 and 4 each have two beats.

lyric-Expresses a poet's personal thoughts and feelings. Once sung to the music of a stringed instrument called a lyre, lyric poetry employs lively, musical language. Vivid words that appeal to the senses help you share the poet's vision or experience. Lines and phrases from lyric poems can echo in your mind like the words of a song (the song's lyrics). Nature and love are common themes in lyric poetry.

narrative-Tells a story. Like most short stories, a narrative poem has a plot, characters, and a setting. Like many poems, a narrative poem includes rhythm, repetition, and rhyme. Narrative poets often use rhythm and repetition to create a musical effect and to highlight key details of the poem. A narrative poem contains more detail than a ballad and is not intended to be sung.

ode-Lengthy lyric poem usually of a serious or meditative nature. Praises people, the arts of music and poetry, natural scenes, or abstract concepts. No fixed system of rhyme and often has varying line lengths.

pastoral/idyll-Poetry idealizing the lives of shepherds and country folk (Pastor is the Latin word for shepherd). The term is often used loosely to include any poems with a rural/farming aspect.

sonnet: A poem containing 14 lines of iambic pentameter. The type of sonnet determines how the stanzas are divided, and the type of rhyme scheme used.

Shakespearean

- o divided into 3 quatrains and a final couplet
- o Has an abab cdcd efef gg rhyme scheme

Italian/Petrarchan

- o Divided into an octave, and a sestet
- o The rhyme scheme is usually abbaabba cdecde

tanka-A Korean/Japanese poem that has five lines with a fixed number of syllables. The subject of the poem is not restricted to nature or seasons like the haiku. Often the last two lines are separated from the first three

Line 1= 5 syllables

Line 2= 7 syllables

Line 3= 5 syllables

Line 4= 7 syllables

Line 5= 7 syllables

## Poetry Techniques

alliteration- the repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginnings of three or more words that are close together.

allusion-A reference to someone or something famous, generally a literary character, plot detail, or setting.

assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds in words that are close together.

atmosphere-the mood the poet creates in his/her poem.

cacophony-discordant or harsh sounds.

connotation- The implication or suggestion that is evoked by a word. It is highly individual and based on experiences and associations in the person's life.

consonance-the repetition of the same consonant sound within three or more words that are close together.

denotation-A word's literal or dictionary meaning/definition.

dialect-the speech patterns, slang terms, and idiomatic expressions of a particular group of people used in a specific region or area of a country.

epigraph-A quotation, or a sentence composed for the purpose, placed at the beginning of a literary work or one of its separate divisions, usually suggestive of the theme.

extended metaphor-A comparison between unlike things that serves as a unifying element throughout a series of sentences or a whole piece. An extended metaphor helps to describe a scene, an event, a character, or a feeling.

hyperbole-Deliberate exaggeration or overstatement.

idiom- An expression that cannot be taken literally.

imagery-sensory details that depict an image in the readers mind.

inference-A judgment based on reasoning rather than on direct or explicit statement.

irony- figure of speech in the form of an expression in which the use of words is the opposite of the thought in the speaker's mind, thus conveying a meaning that contradicts the literal definition.

metaphor-comparison between two unlike things without using like or as.

mood-see atmosphere

onomatopoeia-The use of a word whose sound suggests its meaning.

oxymoron- Two contradictory terms that when brought together create a paradoxical situation.  
(For example: tough love)

paradox- A statement or situation that seems to contradict itself, but, in fact, reveals some element of truth.

parody-Imitates or mocks another work or type of literature, like a caricature in art. Parody in literature mimics a subject or a style. Its purpose may be to ridicule, to broaden understanding of, or to add insight to the original work.

personification-The giving of human characteristics to a non-human subject.

pun-A joke that comes from a play on words. It can make use of a word's multiple meanings, homophone, or rhyme.

satire- A literary work which exposes and ridicules human vices or folly. It is usually intended as a moral criticism directed against injustice or social wrongs.

simile-Comparison between two unlike ideas using like or as.

symbolism- The practice of representing things by means of symbols or of attributing symbolic meanings or significance to objects, events, or relationships.

theme-central idea, thesis, topic, or moral message expressed in a thought or a poem.

tone-attitude the poet has toward his/her material. audience, or both.

understatement-A technique of creating emphasis by saying less than is actually or literally true. Understatement is the opposite of hyperbole or exaggeration, and can be used to create humor as well as biting satire.