

***Elements of
Poetry and
Drama***

Instructions

Get out your Writer's Notebook and do the following:

Write “The Elements of Poetry and Drama” Notes at the top of the page.

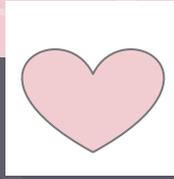
Take notes as we review some important terms and elements we will discover as we read poetry and drama.

**POETRY
IS THOUGHTS
THAT
BREATHE
AND WORDS
THAT
BURN
—THOMAS GRAY**

What is poetry?

What are your initial feelings towards it?

Why are some of us hesitant to engage with poetry?



Terms & Definitions

Copy down the terms and definitions as we go. It's ok to put the definition into your own words



Poetry *Basics*

Form and Structure

Stanza

- ▷ A group of 2 or more lines that form a unit in a poem
- ▷ “Paragraphs” of poetry

Couplet

- ▷ A rhymed pair of lines & may be written in any rhythmic pattern

Quatrain

- ▷ A four-line stanza, or group of lines, in poetry
- ▷ Most common stanza in English poetry

Sonnet

- ▷ A lyric poem written in 14 lines
- ▷ Commonly written in iambic pentameter
- ▷ Shakespearean sonnets are written in 3 quatrains and a couplet

Lyric Poem

- ▷ Short poem in which a single speaker expresses personal thoughts and feelings

Ode

- ▷ A complex lyric poem that develops a dignified theme
- ▷ Appeal to the imagination and intellect
- ▷ May commemorate events or praise people or elements of nature

Narrative poem

- ▷ A poem that tells a story or recounts events

Epic poem

- ▷ A long, narrative poem on a serious subject
- ▷ Presented in a formal style
- ▷ Traces adventures of a great hero whose actions reflect the ideals and values of a nation or race
- ▷ Address universal concerns
 - ▶ Good & evil
 - ▶ Life & death
 - ▶ Sin & redemption

Form

- ▷ The principles of arrangement in a poem- the ways in which lines are organized.
- ▷ Includes the following:
 - ▶ Line length
 - ▶ Placement of lines
 - ▶ Grouping of lines into stanzas



Poetry *Basics*

Sound Devices

Sound Device s

- ▷ Use of words for auditory effect
- ▷ Can convey meaning and mood or unify a work

alliteration

- ▷ The repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words

assonance

- ▷ The repetition of vowel sounds within nonrhyming words.

Only their UsUal maneUvers, dear.

-W.H.Auden, "O What Is That Sound"

consonance

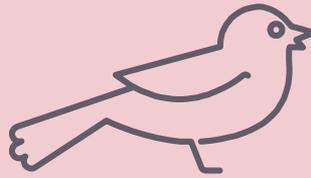
- ▷ The repetition of consonant sounds within and at the end of words
- ▷ Unlike rhyme because vowel sounds before or following the repeated consonant sounds differ
- ▷ Used with other devices to create a musical quality, to emphasize words, or unify a poem

onomatopoeia

- ▷ The use of words whose sounds echo their meanings
 - ▶ Buzz, whisper, gargle
- ▷ Poets choose words whose sounds intensify images and suggest meanings

onomatopoeia

- ▷ The use of words whose sounds echo their meanings
 - ▶ Buzz, whisper, gargle
- ▷ Poets choose words whose sounds intensify images and suggest meanings



Poetry *Basics*

Rhyme & Rhythm

Rhythm

- ▷ A pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line of poetry

Meter

- ▷ A regular pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a poem.

Foot

- ▷ A unit of meter
 - ▶ Consists of 1 stressed syllable & 1 or 2 unstressed syllables
- ▷ 4 types of metrical feet
 - ▶ Iamb- unstressed, stressed
 - ▶ Trochee-stressed, unstressed
 - ▶ Anapest-2 unstressed, stressed
 - ▶ Dactyl-stressed, 2 unstressed

*lambic
pentameter*

- ▷ Metrical pattern of 5 feet
- ▷ Each foot is made up of two syllables
 - ▶ Unstressed, stressed
- ▷ Most common meter used in English poetry

Blank Verse

- ▷ Unrhymed poetry written in iambic pentameter
- ▷ Imitates natural rhythms of English speech
- ▷ Mostly what Shakespeare used

Rhyme

- ▷ Occurrence of similar or identical sounds at the end of two or more words

Internal Rhyme

- ▷ Rhyme that occurs within a single line of poetry

External Rhyme

- ▷ Rhyme that occurs at the ends of rhyme

Rhyme Scheme

- ▷ A pattern of end rhymes in a poem
- ▷ Noted by assigning a letter of the alphabet, beginning with a, to each line
- ▷ Lines that rhyme are given the same letter.



Poetry *Basics*

Stuff you already know

Simile

- ▷ Comparison of two unlike things using like or as

Metaphor

- ▷ Comparison of two things which are basically unlike but have something in common.
- ▷ Does not use like or as

Personification

- ▷ A figure of speech in which human qualities are given to an object, animal, or idea.

Hyperbole

- ▷ Figure of speech in which the truth is exaggerated for emphasis or humorous effect

“Hyperbole is the best!”

Oxymoron

▷ A special kind of concise paradox that brings together two contradictory terms

“Brawling love” “jumbo shrimp” “near miss”

Paradox

- ▷ A seemingly contradictory or absurd statement that may nonetheless suggest an important truth