

Poetry Terms

I. Types of poetry	
Lyric	
Narrative	
Sonnets (Petrarchan & Shakespearian)	
Haiku	
Tanka	
Epic	
II. Structure	
Canto	
Couplet	
Iambic Pentameter	
Meter	
Octave	
Quatrains	
Sestet	
Stanza	
Tercet	
III. Devices	
Allegory	
Alliteration	
Allusion	
Archetype	
Assonance	
Consonance	
Dissonance	
Figurative language	
Imagery	
Onomatopoeia	
Metaphor	
Personification	
Simile	
Review from Short Story Unit	Mood, Irony, Setting, Symbol, Tone

rhythm a generally regular pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in poems.

refrain a repeated word, phrase, line, or group of lines.

paradox a seemingly contradictory idea or statement that may actually be true.

ballad a song or song-like poem that tells a story.

hyperbole overstatement or exaggeration of actions, emotions, or other qualities.

... "I have seen this river so wide it only had one bank." Twain

blank verse poetry written in unrhymed iambic pentameter.

elegy often a poem that mourns the dead.

free verse poetry that has no regular meter or rhyme scheme.

prose the ordinary form of spoken or written language.

verse another word for poetry.

rhyme repetition of final sounds in two or more words.

enjambment A run-on line of poetry in which logical and grammatical sense carries over from one line into the next. An enjambed line differs from an end-stopped line in which the grammatical and logical sense is completed within the line. In the opening lines of Robert Browning's "My Last Duchess," for example, the first line is end-stopped and the second enjambed:

That's my last Duchess painted on the wall,
Looking as if she were alive. I call
That piece a wonder, now....

Ode A long, stately poem in stanzas of varied length, meter, and form. Usually a serious poem on an exalted subject, such as Horace's "Eheu fugaces," but sometimes a more lighthearted work, such as Neruda's "Ode to My Socks."