

Poetic Terms

Alliteration: the repetition of the initial consonant sound in words next to one another

Assonance: the repetition of vowel sounds

Consonance: the repetition of consonant sounds

Imagery: language that evokes one or more of the five senses

Metaphor: comparison of two unlike things, using the verb “to be” and not using “like” or “as”

Simile: comparison of two unlike things using “like” or “as”

Symbol: an object or action that means something more than its literal meaning.

Tone: the attitude a writer takes towards a subject or character.

Juxtapose: two opposites contrasted and placed side by side

Analogy: the comparison of two pairs that have the same relationship.

Rhyme Scheme: rhymed words at the ends of lines

Rhythm: the uniform movement, accent, pulse or beat of a poem

Iambic Pentameter: five pairs of the “stressed, un-stressed” pattern

Sonnet: 14 lines of iambic pentameter, with three quatrains and a couplet at the end. The pattern is abab cdcd efef gg. Usually the first quatrain poses a problem, the next two elaborate on it, and the final couplet makes a conclusion about the problem.

Motif: recurrent thematic element in an artistic or literary work; a dominant theme or central idea.

Irony: an implied discrepancy between what is said and what is meant. 3 kinds:

1. verbal: author says one thing and means another
2. dramatic: audience/reader perceives something that a character in literature does not know
3. irony of a situation: a discrepancy between the expected result and actual results

Figurative Language: something that is not to be taken seriously, but is merely used as a way to describe an object/person or action

Literal Language: something that is to be taken seriously exactly as it is written