

# Poetry Terms

Alliteration Chorus Adjective Synonym  
Prose Couplet Simile Rhyme Stanza  
Onomatopoeia Repetition  
Adjective Syllables  
Hyperbole Consonance  
Synonym Chorus  
Metaphor Assonance  
Alliteration Oxymoron  
Stanza Prose



# Poetry

There are many different types of poem including:

acrostic

sonnet

epic

blank verse

simile

colour

tetractys

pantoum

diamante

ballad

haiku

echo verse

limerick

renga

kenning

riddle

shape

cinquain

ode

free verse

tyburn

senryu

lyric

tanka

# Adjective Poetry

Adjectives are describing words. They are used in poetry to create many different effects and visual pictures to the reader. The adjectives can be used for a more in-depth description of a noun, or they can be used to add more excitement and attention within a line or verse.

Some examples of couplets within poems:

**Roaring** roads,

**Noisy** cars,

**Beaming** headlights,

**Tall** streetlamps,

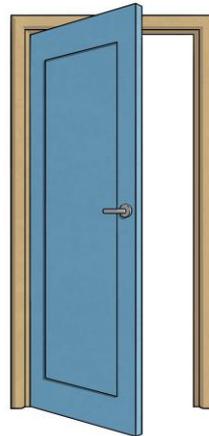
**Dark, cold** night.

# Using Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is when a word imitates its natural sound, or suggests the sound a certain object makes. It is used in poetry to create a sound effect to make the description more expressive and interesting.

## Some examples of onomatopoeia:

**bang**  
**crash**  
**pop**  
**smash**  
**drip**



**buzz**  
**tick tock**  
**whoosh**  
**wham**  
**pow**

# Using Repetition

Repetition is when a certain word, sentence or phrase is written more than once in a poem.

Repetition is used in poetry to help make the poem more interesting, and to help create patterns. Depending on the word or phrase that is repeated, repetition allows for more emphasis to be placed on certain themes, ideas or objects.

**Some examples of where repetition can be used in poetry:**

**Using a refrain in a poem. This is where a verse or phrase is repeated during different stages of a song or poem.**

**Using a chorus in a poem. This is where a verse or phrase is repeated following each verse within a song or poem.**

**In an echo poem, the last word of each line can be repeated as a response in the next line.**

# Using Syllables

A syllable is a unit of written or spoken words.  
Syllables are broken up sounds that are used to create words.

**One syllable = monosyllabic**  
**More than one syllable = polysyllabic**

Syllables are used in poetry to create rhythm.

**Look at the syllable pattern in this poem:**

**Cat, (1)**

**Fluffy, (2)**

**Catches mice, (3)**

**My faithful pet. (4)**



# Verb

**Verbs are doing words. They show actions within a sentence.**

Verbs are used in poetry to create a range of effects. They are used to create more interesting sentences, and to help describe what different people and objects are doing.

**Some examples of verbs:**

The boy **ran** along the shoreline.

The woman **held** her baby tightly.

It **followed** her to school one day.



# Alliteration

**Alliteration is when the sound or letter at the beginning of each or most of the words in a sentence is the same.**

Alliteration is used in poetry to create many different effects. It can be used to create a greater and more interesting description of different themes, people and objects.

**Some examples of alliteration:**

**Sally sells sea shells by the sea shore.**

**All authors allow authority after midnight.**

**Theresa tripped and tumbled tremendously over the tree.**



# Chorus

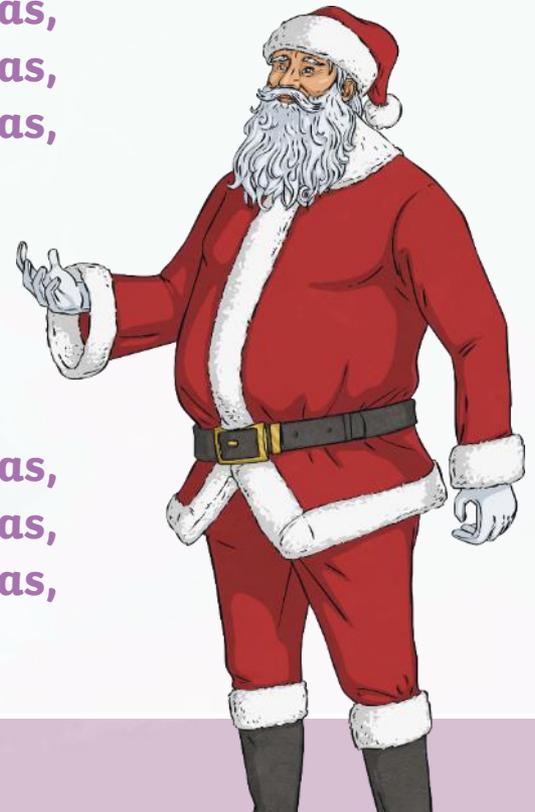
A chorus is the part of a song or poem that is repeated after verses. A chorus is used in poetry to create more drama around and emphasis of a particular idea or theme.

## Some examples of choruses:

**We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
And a happy New Year!**

Glad tidings we bring,  
To you and your kin;  
Glad tidings for Christmas  
And a happy New Year!

**We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
And a happy New Year!**



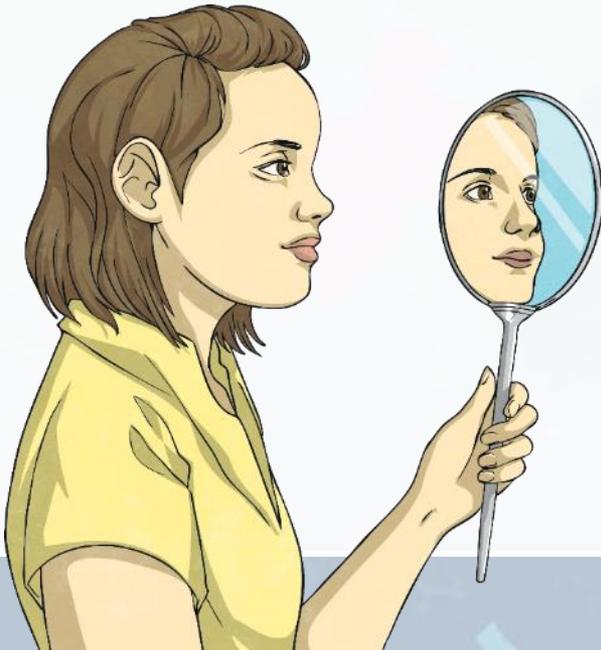
# Oxymoron

Oxymoron is a figure of speech that uses different or opposing terms. The most common form of oxymoron involves just two words.

Oxymoron is used in poetry to create dramatic expression and effect.

## Some examples of oxymoron:

**Bitter sweet**  
**Pretty ugly**  
**Act natural**  
**Seriously funny**  
**Passive aggressive**  
**Alone together**  
**Deafening silence**  
**Living dead**



# Rhyme

Rhyme occurs when two words sound the same when spoken out loud.

These words usually have the same ending sounds,  
however they don't need to be spelt the same.

Rhyme is used in poetry to create something interesting to read.

It is used to create a pattern within a poem.

## Some examples of rhyme:

**Fright and night**

**Would hood**

**Should could**

**Hail and pale**

**Male and stale**

**Air and fare**

**Two and do**

**Day and sway**

**Pause and claws**

**Bears and stairs**



# Simile

A simile is a figure of speech. It is when one thing is compared to another using the words 'like' or 'as'.

Similes can be as descriptive as the writer chooses.

Similes are used in poetry to give the reader a more descriptive and in-depth understanding about a particular object or person.

## Some examples of simile:

**As busy as a bee** – This is comparing someone's level of energy to the speed of a bee.

**As snug as a bug in a rug** – This is comparing someone who is very cosy to how comfortable a bug would be in a rug.

**Runs like a cheetah** – This is comparing the speed that someone can run to the speed of a cheetah which is quite fast.

**As white as a ghost** – This is comparing a person's skin colour to a ghost, usually because they are frightened, sick or scared of something.

# Synonym

A synonym is a word that has the same, or similar, meaning as another word. Synonyms can be found in a thesaurus.

Synonyms are used in poetry to be more graphic and to give a broader description.

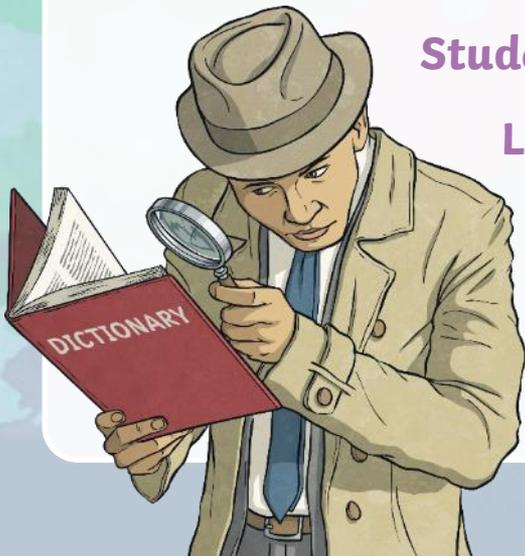
## Some examples of synonyms:

**Beautiful** – attractive, pretty, gorgeous, stunning

**Funny** – hysterical, humorous, amusing, entertaining

**Student** – pupil, scholar, schoolboy, schoolgirl

**Lazy** – idle, sluggish, indolent, slothful



# Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a figure of speech which involves an exaggeration of an idea. Hyperbole is used in poetry to provide strong effects and to provide great emphasis.

## Some examples of hyperbole:

**I'm so hungry that I could eat a horse.**

**It was so cold that I saw polar bears wearing jackets.**

**I had a million things to do.**

**That joke is so old, the last time I heard it  
I was walking next to a dinosaur.**



# Metaphor

A metaphor is a figure of speech which describes a place, object or subject as something unlikely and uncommon.

Metaphors are used in poetry to create an image of judgement and comparison in the mind of the reader.

## Some examples of metaphor:

**Her eyes were glistening jewels.**

**She is the sunshine which brightens up our day.**

**The kids at school are all brains.**

**In Andrew's eyes, Rebecca is the sun.**

**He is my knight in shining armour.**

**The world is a stage.**



# Stanza

A stanza is a group of lines gathered together by rhythmical pattern and meter. A stanza with four or more lines can be referred to as a verse. The length and pattern of a stanza decides what type of poem it is. Stanzas are made by leaving a blank space before and after it.

**Two lines = Couplet**

**Three lines = Tercet**

**Four lines = Quatrain**

**Five lines = Cinquain**

Stanzas are used in poetry to provide structure and form.

## Some examples of stanzas:



**I love to dance,  
I love to prance.  
What my heart would do,  
But be sad and blue,  
If I could not dance.**

**First Stanza**

**Dancing feels nice,  
But it come at a price.  
Dancing tutus and shoes  
My gosh you can't lose!**

**Second Stanza**

# Rhymed Verse

Poetry written in a metrical form that rhymes throughout.

An example of rhymed verse:

I hear the people **sing**,  
To the glory of the **king**.  
He sits up on his great big **chair**,  
To watch everybody just sit and **stare**.



This poem has four lines.

# Free Verse

Poetry written with no fixed meter and no end rhyme. Free verse may include end rhyme, but it most commonly does not.

*An example of free verse:*



**There once was a  
cat who  
sat down on the  
mat  
and stayed there till  
morning tea  
time.**

This poem has seven lines.

# Spoonerisms

A spoonerism is a deliberate error where letters or syllables are switched between words.

Some examples of spoonerisms:

**runny babbit** instead of **bunny rabbit**

**belly jeans** instead of **jelly beans**

**flutter by** instead of **butterfly**

**Beeping Sleuty** instead of **Sleeping Beauty**



Think of 6 key words to describe the following poem

Municipal Gum

Gumtree in the city street,  
Hard bitumen around your feet,  
Rather you should be  
In the cool world of leafy forest halls  
And wild bird calls  
Here you seem to me  
Like that poor cart-horse  
Castrated, broken, a thing wronged,  
Strapped and buckled, its hell prolonged,  
Whose hung head and listless mien express  
Its hopelessness.  
Municipal gum, it is dolorous  
To see you thus  
Set in your black grass of bitumen--  
O fellow citizen,  
What have they done to us?  
Oodgeroo Noonuccal

**Write a paragraph to describe  
the poem**

Alliteration Chorus  
Prose Couplet  
Onomatopoeia  
Adjective  
Hyperbole  
Synonym  
Metaphor  
Stanza  
Alliteration  
Stanza  
Chorus  
Adjective  
Rhyme  
Stanza  
Repetition  
Syllables  
Consonance  
Assonance  
Chorus  
Oxymoron  
Prose

