

## Poetry and Figures of Speech Terms

Keep this list in a carefully chosen place. It will be instrumental in reading and analyzing poetry. Also, it will be an invaluable study guide!

**SIMILE:** Comparison of two dissimilar things by means of the word *like* or *as*.

Collin was like a deer as he jumped over the fence.

**METAPHOR:** Direct comparison of two dissimilar things without using *like* or *as*.

Collin was a deer as he jumped over the fence.

**PERSONIFICATION:** The giving of human qualities to an object, animal, or idea.

Spring strolled over the hill one day.

**ALLITERATION:** A repetition of initial consonant sounds.

The Wild West wind withered the willows.

**ONOMATOPOEIA:** Expressed by words that imitate the sounds of the things they represent.

Boom; Creak; Buzz

**ASSONANCE:** A repetition of a vowel sound within nonrhyming words.

From labor in the weekday weather made/  
Banked fires blaze...(Robert Hayden)

**CONSONANCE:** A repetition of consonant sounds within and at the ends of words.

I call out for you against the jutted stars...(Amy Lowell)

**RHYME:** A repetition of the sound of the stressed vowels and all succeeding sounds in two or more words.

I love to create art.  
It often warms my heart.

**RHYTHM:** A pattern or flow of sound created by the arrangement of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line of poetry.

(See example from *Romeo and Juliet*)

**REPETITION:** The repeating of a sound, word, phrase, line or unit for the purpose of emphasis

So long,  
So far away  
Is Africa.  
(Langston Hughes)

**CONNOTATION:** Symbolic meaning of a word gathered from history and usage throughout time.

**DENOTATION:** Dictionary meaning of a word.

**IAMBIC PENTAMETER:** A foot of verse consisting of an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable.

**BLANK VERSE:** Consists of unrhymed lines of ten syllables each with iambic pentameter.

**FREE VERSE:** Written with rhythm, but the rhythm is not in a fixed pattern. It also has no rhyme scheme.

*\*For a challenge, look for these within poems:\**

**APOSTROPHE:** Expresses comparison by directly addressing an object or an abstraction as if it were a person.

O love that wilt not let me go.  
O death where is thy sting?

**HYPERBOLE:** Expressed comparison by deliberately exaggerating for effect.

I'm frozen stiff.

**SYNECDOCHE/METONOMY:** A figure of speech in which a part stands for the whole.

Put your shoulder to the grindstone.

**ALLUSION:** Expressed comparison by referring to some incident in history, literature or other fields of knowledge, which is supposed to be familiar.

We must all cross the river Styx.  
He met his Waterloo.