

What is Poetry?

- In poetry the sound and meaning of words are combined to express feelings, thoughts, and ideas.
- The poet chooses words carefully.
- Poetry is usually written in lines.

What is Poetry?

Free Verse

- A free verse poem does not use rhyme or patterns.
- Can vary freely in length of lines, stanzas, and subject.

Revenge

When I find out
who took
the last cooky

out of the jar
and left
me a bunch of

stale old messy
crumbs, I'm
going to take

me a handful
and crumb
up *someone's* bed.



By Myra Cohn Livingston

Poetry Elements

- Writers use many elements to create their poems. These elements include:
 - Rhythm
 - Sound
 - Imagery
 - Form

Rhythm

Rhythm is the flow of the beat in a poem.

Gives poetry a musical feel.

Can be fast or slow, depending on mood and subject of poem.

You can measure rhythm in *meter*, by counting the beats in each line.

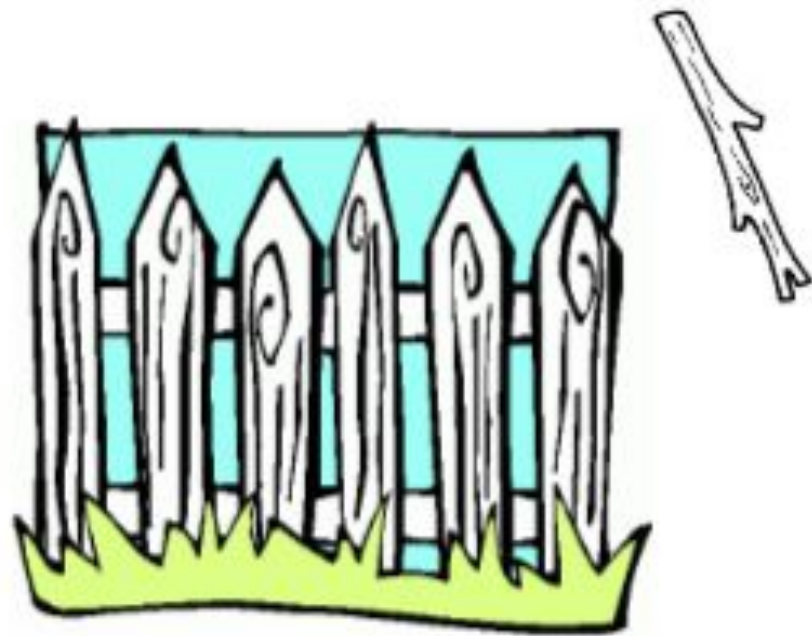
(See next two slides for examples.)

Analyzing

- Questions:
 - What did you think about the text (what one piece was particularly interesting)
 - What can we learn from looking closely at art?
 - How does this type of informational text differ from a book
 - How does learning about history help us understand the world today?

The Pickety Fence by David McCord

The pickety fence
The pickety fence
Give it a lick it's
The pickety fence
Give it a lick it's
A clickety fence
Give it a lick it's a lickety fence
Give it a lick
Give it a lick
Give it a lick
With a rickety stick
pickety
pickety
pickety
pick.



The rhythm in this poem is fast –
to match the speed of the stick
striking the fence.

What is Poetry?

Where Are You Now?

When the night begins to fall
And the sky begins to glow
You look up and see the tall
City of lights begin to grow –
In rows and little golden squares
The lights come out. First here, then there
Behind the windowpanes as though
A million billion bees had built
Their golden hives and honeycombs
Above you in the air.

By Mary Britton Miller



The rhythm in this poem is slow – to match the night gently falling and the lights slowly coming on.

What is Poetry?

Sound

Writers love to use interesting sounds in their poems. After all, poems are meant to be heard. These sound devices include:

- Rhyme
- Repetition
- Alliteration
- Onomatopoeia

What is Poetry?

Rhyme

- Rhymes are words that end with the same sound. (*Hat*, *cat* and *bat* rhyme.)
- Rhyming sounds don't have to be spelled the same way. (*Cloud* and *allowed* rhyme.)
- Rhyme is the most common sound device in poetry.



What is Poetry?

Rhyming Patterns

- Poets can choose from a variety of different rhyming patterns.
- (See next four slides for examples.)
- **AABB** – lines **1 & 2** rhyme and lines **3 & 4** rhyme
- **ABAB** – lines **1 & 3** rhyme and lines **2 & 4** rhyme
- **ABBA** – lines **1 & 4** rhyme and lines **2 & 3** rhyme
- **ABCB** – lines **2 & 4** rhyme and lines **1 & 3** do not rhyme

What is Poetry?

AABB Rhyming Pattern

First Snow

Snow makes whiteness where it **falls**.
The bushes look like popcorn **balls**.
And places where I always **play**,
Look like somewhere else **today**.

By Marie Louise Allen



What is Poetry?

ABAB Rhyming Pattern

Oodles of Noodles

I love noodles. Give me **oodles**.
Make a mound up to the **sun**.
Noodles are my favorite **foodles**.
I eat noodles by the **ton**.

By Lucia and James L. Hymes, Jr.



What is Poetry?

ABBA Rhyming Pattern

From "Bliss"

Let me fetch **sticks**,
Let me fetch **stones**,
Throw me your **bones**,
Teach me your **tricks**.

By Eleanor Farjeon



What is Poetry?

ABCB Rhyming Pattern

The Alligator

The alligator chased his **tail**
Which hit him in the **snout**;
He nibbled, gobbled, swallowed **it**,
And turned right **inside-out**.

by Mary Macdonald



What is Poetry?

Alliteration

- Alliteration is the repetition of the first consonant sound in words, as in the nursery rhyme “**P**eter **P**iper **p**icked a **p**eck of **p**ickled **p**eppers.”
- (See next slide for example.)



What is Poetry?

Alliteration Example

This Tooth

I jiggled it
jaggled it
jerked it.

I pushed
and pulled
and poked it.

But –
As soon as I stopped,
And left it alone
This tooth came out
On its very own!

by Lee Bennett
Hopkins



What is Poetry?

Onomatopoeia

- Words that represent the actual sound of something are words of onomatopoeia. Dogs “*bark*,” cats “*purr*,” thunder “*booms*,” rain “*drips*,” and the clock “*ticks*.”
- Appeals to the sense of sound.
- (See next slide for example.)



What is Poetry?

Onomatopoeia Example

Listen

Scrunch, scrunch, scrunch.
Crunch, crunch, crunch.
Frozen snow and brittle ice
Make a winter sound that's nice
Underneath my stamping feet
And the cars along the street.
Scrunch, scrunch, scrunch.
Crunch, crunch, crunch.



by Margaret Hillert

What is Poetry?

Figures of Speech

- Figures of speech are tools that writers use to create images, or “paint pictures,” in your mind.
- **Similes**, **metaphors**, and **personification** are three figures of speech that create imagery.



What is Poetry?

Simile

- A simile compares two things using the words “like” or “as.”
- Comparing one thing to another creates a vivid image.
- (See next slide for example.)



The runner streaked like a cheetah.

What is Poetry?

Simile Example

Flint

An emerald is as green as grass,
A ruby red as blood;
A sapphire shines as blue as
heaven;
A flint lies in the mud.

A diamond is a brilliant stone,
To catch the world's desire;
An opal holds a fiery spark;
But a flint holds fire.

By Christina Rossetti



What is Poetry?

Metaphor

- A metaphor compares two things without using the words “like” or “as.”
- Gives the qualities of one thing to something that is quite different.
- (See next slide for example.)



The winter wind is a wolf
howling at the door.

What is Poetry?

Metaphor Example

The Night is a Big Black Cat

The Night is a big black cat

The moon is her topaz eye,

The stars are the mice she hunts at night,

In the field of the sultry sky.



By G. Orr Clark

What is Poetry?

Personification

- Personification gives human traits and feelings to things that are not human – like animals or objects.
- (See next slide for example.)



What is Poetry?

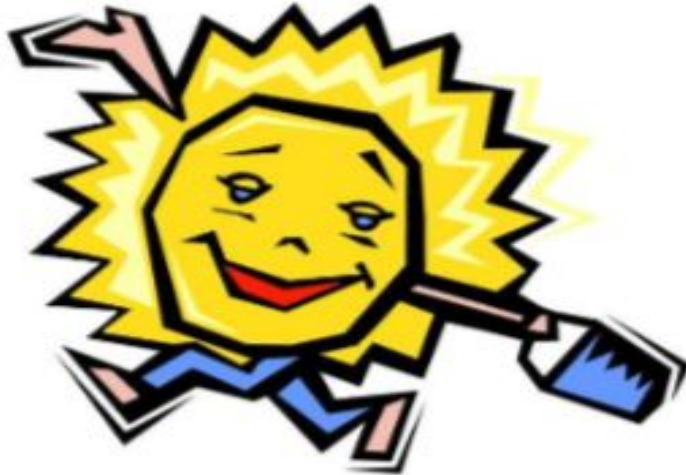
Personification Example

From "Mister Sun"

Mister Sun

Wakes up at dawn,
Puts his golden
Slippers on,
Climbs the summer
Sky at noon,
Trading places
With the moon.

by J. Patrick Lewis



What is Poetry?

Lines and Stanzas

- Most poems are written in lines.
- A group of lines in a poem is called a stanza.
- Stanzas separate ideas in a poem. They act like paragraphs.
- This poem has two stanzas.

March

*A blue day
A blue jay
And a good beginning.*

*One crow,
Melting snow –
Spring's winning!*

By Eleanor Farjeon

What is Poetry?

Haiku

- A haiku is a Japanese poem with 3 lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables. (Total of 17 syllables.)
- Does not rhyme.
- Is about an aspect of nature or the seasons.
- Captures a moment in time.



**Little frog among
rain-shaken leaves, are you, too,
splashed with fresh, green paint?**

by Gaki

What is Poetry?

Traditional Cinquain

- A cinquain is a poem written in five lines that do not rhyme.
- Traditional cinquain has five lines containing 22 syllables in the following pattern:
 - Line 1 – 2 syllables
 - Line 2 – 4 syllables
 - Line 3 – 6 syllables
 - Line 4 – 8 syllables
 - Line 5 – 2 syllables



Oh, cat
are you grinning
curled in the window seat
as sun warms you this December
morning?

By Paul B. Janezco

What is Poetry?

Concrete Poem

- A concrete poem (also called shape poem) is written in the shape of its subject.
- The way the words are arranged is as important what they mean.
- Does not have to rhyme.



What is Poetry?

Acrostic

- In an acrostic poem the first letter of each line, read down the page, spells the subject of the poem.
- Type of free verse poem.
- Does not usually rhyme.



Loose brown parachute
Escaping
And
Floating on puffs of air.

by Paul Paolilli

What is Poetry?

Author's Purpose



The poet has an “author’s purpose” when he writes a poem.
The purpose can be to:

- **Share feelings** (joy, sadness, anger, fear, loneliness)
- **Tell a story**
- **Send a message** (theme - something to think about)
- **Be humorous**
- **Provide description*** (e.g., person, object, concept)

**Although description is important in all poems, the focus of some poems is the description itself rather than feelings, story-telling, message, or humor.*

What is Poetry?

Author's Purpose: Share Feelings

When I Was Lost

Underneath my belt
My stomach was a stone.
Sinking was the way I felt.
And hollow.
And alone.

By Dorothy Aldis



The author's purpose is to share her feelings about being lost and scared.

Author's Purpose: Tell Story

Jimmy Jet By Shel Silverstein

I'll tell you the story of Jimmy Jet –
And you know what I tell you is true.
He loved to watch his TV set
Almost as much as you.

He watched all day, he watched all night
Till he grew pale and lean,
From "The Early Show" to "The Late Late Show"
And all the shows between.

He watched till his eyes were frozen wide,
And his bottom grew into his chair.
And his chin turned into a tuning dial,
And antennae grew out of his hair.

The author's purpose is to tell the story of a boy who watched too much television.

And his brains turned into TV tubes,
And his face to a TV screen.
And two knobs saying "VERT." and "HORIZ."
Grew where his ears had been.

And he grew a plug that looked like a tail
So we plugged in little Jim.
And now instead of him watching TV
We all sit around and watch him.



What is Poetry?

Author's Purpose: Send Message

Share the Adventure

Pages and pages
A seesaw of ideas –
Share the adventure

Fiction, nonfiction:
Door to our past and future
Swinging back and forth

WHAM! The book slams shut,
But we read it together
With our minds open

by Patricia and Frederick McKissack



The author's purpose is to send a serious message. The message, or theme, is that reading is an adventure that can be shared.

What is Poetry?

Author's Purpose: Be Humorous

Insides

I'm very grateful to my skin
For keeping all my insides in –
I do so hate to think about
What I would look like inside-out.

By Colin West



The author's purpose is to write a humorous poem about the purpose of skin.

Author's Purpose: Be Descriptive

Me by *Karla Kuskin*

"My nose is blue,
My teeth are green,
My face is like a soup tureen.
I look just like a lima bean.
I'm very, very lovely.
My feet are far too short
And long.
My hands are left and right
And wrong.
My voice is like the hippo's song.
I'm very, very,
Very, very,
Very, very
Lovely?"



The author's purpose is to describe a strange-looking person.

What is Poetry?

Author's Purpose: Be Descriptive

Vacuum Cleaner

Roars over carpet
zig-zag-zips
sucking up fuzz
through metal lips.

By Dee Lillegard



The author's purpose is to describe an object – a vacuum cleaner.