

English Y10 Summer 2 Unseen Poetry

Poetry Features and Explanations



LANGUAGE:

Poetic Feature	Possible Explanation
Word associations	What do you associate with the word – what does it make you think of? This reveals the way the poet feels about
Emotive language	Makes the reader feel Underlines the poets feelings (go on to state what they are).
Positive/negative connotations	• To make the theme/subject matter appear positive or negative. Explain the reasons why the poet feels positive/negative.
Assonance	Draws attention to a key word(s)/phrase (go on to explain why that word/phrase is key to the poem).
Alliteration	• Emphasises a key word(s)/phrase (go on to explain why that word/phrase is key to the poem).
Repetition	Draws attention to a key word(s)/phrase (go on to explain why that word/phrase is key to the poem).
Fricative (k;f)	Creates a harsh/uncomfortable/brutal/awkward atmosphere.
Plosive (b;p)	Creates a sense of power/energy/anger.
Oxymoron	Highlights a key phrase/idea (go on to explain why that phrase/idea is key to the poem). Highlights/creates a sense of confusion.

LANGUAGE (IMAGERY):

Poetic Feature	Possible Explanation
Simile	Creates an image in the reader's mind by comparing it to something else (go on to describe what aspect is similar and why it is key to the poem).
Metaphor	Creates an image in the reader's mind by relating it to something else (go on to describe what aspect is similar and why it is key to the poem).
Personification	Gives something human characteristics and emotion – explain why. Like a simile, can be used to create an image in the reader's mind.

STRUCTURE:

Poetic Feature	Possible Explanation
1 st person narrative voice	We see the issue/themes from one person's point of view – biased?
2 nd person narrative voice	Speaks directly to the audience – can put a point/feeling across forcefully. Can be used to challenge the audience or plead with the reader.
Short sentences	Builds drama/tension. Highlights a key phrase (explain why it is key to the poem). If repeated, adds pace/excitement to the poem.
Enjambment	Resembles spontaneous, unplanned, instinctive thoughts. Adds pace/excitement to the poem.
Opening and ending	How does the poem begin? What impact does it try to create? How does the poem end? What impact does it try to create? Does it link to the opening?
Rhyme	Can emphasise a key word (explain why that word is key to the poem).
Rhythm	What is the rhythm (pace?) What impact does it have?

Poetic Structures

Stanza

A group of lines in a poem.

Couplet

A stanza consisting of two lines

Tercet

A stanza consisting of three lines.

Quatrain

A stanza consisting of four lines.

Quintet

A stanza consisting of five lines.

Sestet

A stanza consisting of six lines.

Septet

A stanza consisting of seven lines.

Octave

A stanza consisting of eight lines.

Nonet

A stanza consisting of nine lines.

Refrain

A line, or series of lines, repeated in a poem.

Volta

A turning point in a poem, where the tone or argument changes.



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Poetic Forms	
Ballad	A long poem, usually with four line stanzas (quatrains), that tells a story.
Dramatic monologue	A poem in which the poet adopts the voice, or persona, of a character and addresses an implied audience.
Elegy	A poem of serious reflection, typically focusing on grief about a death.
Epic	A long, narrative poem concerning a serious subject, recounting heroic deeds and events that are significant to a culture or nation.
Monologue	One person speaking for a long period of time.
Narrative	Writing that tells a story.
Ode	A poem usually addressed to someone or something that expresses emotion towards the subject. Usually used to praise.
Petrarchan sonnet	A form of sonnet in which the first eight lines have a regular ABBA rhyme scheme and introduce a problem; the final six lines have a different rhyme scheme and solve the problem.
Sonnet	A form of poem with fourteen lines, typically having ten syllables per line. Usually used to express love.
Rhyme and Metre	
metre	The arrangement of stressed and unstressed syllables to create rhythm in a line of poetry.
syllable	A single unit of sound
iamb	An unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable
iambic pentameter	Poetry with a metre of ten syllables: five stressed; five unstressed. The stress falls on every second syllable.
iambic tetrameter	Poetry will a metre of eight syllables: four stressed; four unstressed.
blank verse	Poetry written in iambic pentameter that does not rhyme
free verse	Poetry that does not rhyme and has no regular rhythm
internal rhyme	When two or more words on the same line rhyme
half-rhyme	Words that have a similar, but not identical, end sound.
rhyming couplet	A pair of rhyming lines next to each other
rhyming triplet	Three rhyming lines next to each other.



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How to structure an unseen poetry response:

TITLE



- ✓ What does it suggest to you?
- ✓ What does it make you think the poem will be about?

WORD CHOICES



- ✓ Pick out 2 / 3 words or phrases
- ✓ Why do you think they are interesting? What do they suggest to you?
- ✓ What type of words are they? Eg. noun choices, powerful verbs or adjectives, adverbs?

IMAGERY



- ✓ Pick out 2 / 3 lines that make you picture an image in your
- ✓ Which techniques have been used? Simile? Metaphor? Personification etc?
- ✓ Why have they used it? How does it make you feel?

- √ The title of the poem connotes...
- ✓ From the title we can infer...
- ✓ The title immediately make the reader think / feel / imagine...

WORD CHOICES

- √ The poem makes interesting use of vocabulary...
- ✓ The poet uses interesting to ...
- ✓ The poet's choice of vocabulary makes the reader think / feel / imagine...

IMAGERY

- ✓ The poet creates strong visual imagery...
- ✓ There is evidence of powerful imagery
- ✓ The poet uses a when....to...

STRUCTURE



- ✓ How is it laid out? How does it look on the page? Why?
- ✓ Is there a rhyme or rhythm? Why? What is the purpose?
- ✓ Are there links between the beginning and end?
- ✓ What person and tense is it written in?

STRUCTURE

- ✓ The poem is structured...
- ✓ The use of structure highlights...
- ✓ We can see patterns in the poem where...
- The rhyme scheme... / The lack of rhyming..
- A particular rhythm is used...

TONE



- ✓ If this poem was a party, what would be the mood?
- ✓ What do you think the poet is feeling?
- Does the mood change?
- ✓ Why do you think the poet wrote it? How do you respond to the feelings expressed?

- ✓ The tone of the poem is one of...
- The mood of the poem changes from the beginning...
- By the end of the poem the reader feels...
- ✓ The poet expresses the idea / feelings ...

Words for analysis: suggests symbolises juxtaposes alludes to the reader can infer **Implies** highlights establishes a sense of signifies conveys has connotations of personifies

compares embodies

Vocabulary to describe a poem's tone or emotion:	
Нарру	joyful, joyous, optimistic, content, elated
Sad	sombre, mournful, melancholy, despairing, disheartened
Lonely	isolated, solitary, forlorn
Critical	condemning, disapproving, disparaging, judgemental
Love	warmth, affection, tenderness, fondness, passion
Reflective	thoughtful, contemplative, ruminating