



Poetic Forms

Ballad Story poems
Often 4 lines stanzas (quatrains)

Blank verse Verse with no rhyme
Usually 10 syllables

Epic Tragic/heroic and huge in scale
– full of hyperbole and exaggerated emotions

Free verse No regular rhyme/rhythm

Monologue Poem told from the point of view of the speaker.
As though they are telling a story.

Sonnet A poem made up of 14 lines that is normally about love. Often has twist or “volta” at the end.



Structural Devices



Enjambment When a sentence continues on the next line

Caesura A pause near the middle of a line of poetry

Juxtaposition Two contrasting things placed together to help the reader see the differences

Rhyme A repetition of similar sounds in two or more words

Stanza A verse of poetry

Repetition When something is repeated for effect e.g. to reinforce an idea.

Language Devices

Alliteration When words placed together start with the same sound. “Greedy Gary grabbed the gravy”

Simile When you compare two things using ‘as’ or ‘like’. “As brave as a lion”

Metaphor Comparing something directly to something it cannot be. “She is a star”

Personification When you give inanimate object human qualities. “The alarm clock screamed”

Onomatopoeia Words that sound like what they are. “Crash” or “Fizz”

Assonance The repetition of a vowel sound “Go slow over the road”

Sibilance A repeated soft sound e.g. ‘s’, ‘sh’ or ‘z’ sound. “She sells sea shells”



*“As imagination bodies forth
The forms of things unknown,
the poet’s pen
Turns them to shapes, and gives
to airy nothing
A local habitation and a name.”*

*“Poetry is the
spontaneous
overflow of
powerful feelings.”*



William Shakespeare

William Wordsworth



Types of Rhyme

External Rhyme	Rhyming Couplets	Each line rhymes with the one immediately following it (AABB)	Singing he was, or fluting all the day ; He was as fresh as is the month of May
	Alternate Rhyme	When every other line rhymes with each other (ABAB)	O, if I say, you look upon this verse , When I, perhaps, compounded am with clay , Do not so much as my poor name rehearse , But let your love even with my life decay
Internal Rhyme		When the rhyming words are also found in the middle of the line	Ah, distinctly I remember it was in the bleak December ; And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor
Full Rhyme	Masculine Rhyme	When the last syllable of two words rhyme	Stand / Land Above / Love Flight / Moonlight
	Feminine Rhyme	When the last two syllables of two words rhyme	Smile / While Parted / Started Motion / Ocean
Half Rhyme		When the sounds of words are similar but not identical	Home / Alone Grand / Grind Must / Rush
Eye Rhyme		When words look like they should rhyme, but don't	Four / Flour Daughter / Laughter Enough / Through

Why is poetry important?

- Poetry is so important because it helps us understand and appreciate the world around us.
- Poets from all cultures write about family, love, loss, death, society and nature; but different cultures tend to view some of these things differently
- Poetry, if we let it and embrace it, can offer us a way to empathize with one another.
- Poetry bares open the vulnerabilities of human beings so we can all relate to each other a little better.

*Poetry lifts the veil from the
hidden beauty of the world*



Number of lines

Couplet	2
Tercet	3
Quatrain	4
Quintet	5
Sestet	6
Septet	7
Octave	8
DID YOU KNOW? OCT in OCTave is the same root as OCTagon and OCTober (which used to be the eighth month in the year)	