

Elements of Poetry

Poetic Devices

Poetic Devices and Terms to Know

- Alliteration – repetition of consonant sounds
- Assonance – repetition of vowel sounds
- Allusion – reference in a poem to another famous literary work, event, idea, era, history, etc.
- Apostrophe – when the speaker directly addresses an absent or dead person, abstract quality, or something nonhuman as if it were present
- Connotation – all the meanings, associations, or emotions a word suggests

Continued...

- Denotation – the literal, dictionary, definitions of a word
- Diction – poet’s choice of words
- Dissonance – a harsh, discordant combination of sounds (usually consonant sounds)
- Epiphany – moment of sudden insight or revelation
- Figurative Language – intentionally departs from the normal meaning of words to create an effect
 - Includes all figures of speech

Continued...

- Figure of Speech – word or phrase that describes one thing in terms of another and is not meant to be understood on a literal level
 - Hyperbole –uses exaggeration to express strong emotion, create comic effects, or intense dramatic tone
 - Oxymoron – combines apparently contradictory words in to a new idea
 - Personification
 - Simile
 - Metaphor

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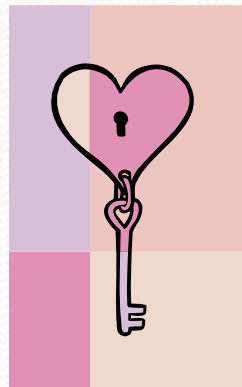
- Free Verse – poetry which has no regular meter or rhyme
- Imagery – use of language that appeals to the senses
 - Crucial to poetry!
- Onomatopoeia – word whose sound imitates or suggests its meaning
- Paradox – an apparent contradiction that is actually true – two opposing ideas that are combined to create a new idea with deeper meaning

Continued...

- Parallelism – repetition of words or phrases that have the same grammatical structure or that restate a similar idea
- Pun – a play on the multiple meanings of a word or on two words that sound alike but have different meanings
- Refrain – a repeated word, phrase, line, or group of lines
- Stanza – a group of consecutive lines in a poem that form a single unit

Continued...

- Style – the manner in which writers or speakers say what they wish to say
- Symbol – a person place, thing, or event that stands both for itself and for something beyond itself
 - Probably most frequently used literary device



Unlock the Poem

TPFASTT

Title

- The title is always significant. It is *part of the poem*—not just a separate identifier.
- Write the title.
 - What predictions can you make?
 - What images are already in your mind?
 - Do you know anything about the tone of the poem?

Paraphrase

- Write the poem in your own words.
 - This is *like* a summary of the poem...
 - But you need to keep the point of view, characters, tone, etc. the same

Figurative Language

- List all figures of speech
 - Stanza, line number
 - Type
 - Purpose
 - What images are created?
 - Does this affect or change the tone?

Attitude

- What is the author's attitude toward the subject?
 - Your answer must be based on contextual evidence. Can you point to the evidence?

Shifts

- A shift means that something about the poem has changed. It might be...
 - Diction
 - Grammar
 - Tone
 - Speaker
 - Speaker's attitude
 - Images
 - What affect does the shift have on the meaning of the poem?

Title

- Yes, title again.
- Now that you have read and interpreted the poem, does the title take on a new meaning or significance?
- Do you recognize something about the meaning of the poem that you did not see before?

Theme

- What is the central idea of the poem?
- Consider the author's purpose and the message he or she wants to reveal to the audience.

One Art

by Elizabeth Bishop

The art of losing isn't hard to master;
so many things seem filled with the intent
to be lost that their loss is no disaster.

Lose something every day. Accept the
fluster
of lost door keys, the hour badly spent.
The art of losing isn't hard to master.

Then practice losing farther, losing faster;
places, names, and where it was you meant
to travel. None of these will bring disaster.

I lost my mother's watch. And look! my
last, or
next to last, of three houses went.
The art of losing isn't hard to master.

I lost two cities, lovely ones. And, vaster,
some realms I owned, two rivers, a
continent,
I miss them, but it wasn't a disaster.

--Even losing you (the joking voice, a
gesture
I love) I shan't have lied. It's evident
the art of losing's not too hard to master
though it may look like (Write it!) like
disaster.