

Metaphor

Language that directly compares seemingly unrelated subjects so that it describes them as being equal in some way.

Ex. THICKNESS OF ICE, where ice is used as a metaphor to describe how a relationship grows and fails.

Free Verse

A poem that has no formal or regular rhyme scheme. Ex THICKNESS OF ICE

Sonnet

A poem of 14 lines, usually a love poem,
Ex. MY MISTRESS EYES

Oxymoron

Two words used together which have, or seem to have, opposite meanings.

Ex. ROLLER SKATERS 'earthbirds.'

Assonance

Is the repetition of vowel sounds in words that are close to each other

Ex. ROLLER SKATERS 'smooth swoop.'

Onomatopoeia

The creation and use of words which include sounds that are similar to the noises that the words refer to Ex. 'Pop' or 'Boom'

Ex. TRACTOR 'hisses.'

Alliteration

Is where the same sound is used at the **beginning** of two words that are near each other.

Ex. TRACTOR 'sleettier snow.'

Imagery

Words and phrases that are used in literature to create clear pictures or images in our minds. This can also be used for smell, sound and taste which is called '**Sensorary Imagery**'

Ex. TRACTOR, the graphic description of the Tractor's engine which is describes as being like human intestines.

Personification

Where an inanimate object, machine or animal is described in human terms.

Ex. TRACTOR '**entrails.**'

Enjambment

Where the sense in a line or a stanza runs on to the next line or stanza.

Ex. *I WANNA BE YOURS.*

let me be your vacuum cleaner

breathing in your dust

let me be your ford cortina

i will never rust

Tone & Atmosphere

How the poem makes you feel or how it sounds.

'HESPERUS' is sad.

I WANNA BE YOURS is humorous.

Pace/Tempo

Is the speed the poem reads at. Short words and short lines make for a fast pace. Long words, lines or stanzas tend to make the pace slow.

Ex.

I WANNA BE YOURS is fast paced.

TRACTOR is slow and evenly paced.

Complex Rhyme Schemes

Where there is no regular pattern to the rhyme scheme: Ex. *I WANNA BE YOURS.*

To describe a complex rhyme scheme then use letters to describe the rhyme.

Ex. **Ababccdd** = two alternate rhyming couplets followed by two rhyming couplets.

Rhythm

A strong pattern of sounds that is evident in a poem. A poem that contains any of the following rhyme, alliteration, enjambment and repetition will have rhythm. The more frequently these elements appear the stronger the rhythm.

Ex. *I WANNA BE YOURS* is a poem with a very strong rhythm.

Rhythm

A poem that does not contain or has very little rhyme, alliteration, enjambment and repetition will have very little rhythm and read more like a prose story.

Ex. Tractor does not have a very strong rhythm as it has no rhyme but it does have a couple of examples of alliteration and repetition.

Repetition

Where a word or phrase in a poem is repeated. This is usually done for rhythmic purposes or to emphasise a point the poet wants to make.

Ex. *I WANNA BE YOURS* 'Deep.'

Simile

Where an object or a person is compared to a similar object, often with the word **'like'** or **'as.'**

Ex, Hesperus "Blue were her eyes **as** the fairy-flax"

Narrative

A poem that tells a story. Ex. Hesperus.

Chime

Two words that have a similar sound but are not complete or whole rhymes.

Ex. I WANNA BE YOURS 'hers': 'yours.'

Line Length

The number of syllables in a line.

Rhyme

Where word **endings** have similar sounds.
Usually end of lines in a poem

- **Couplet:** Two adjacent lines that rhyme.
- **Alternate Rhyming Couplet:** Two lines that rhyme that have an un-rhymed line between them. Ex. Hesperus
- **Internal Rhyme:** Where words inside a line have a similar ending to words near them. Ex. Hesperus "Oh **say**, what **may** it be?"

Stanza

A series of lines in a poem that are grouped together:

It was the schooner Hesperus,
That sailed the wintry sea;
And the skipper had taken his little daughter,
To bear him company.

Blue were her eyes as the fairy-flax,
Her cheeks like the dawn of day,
And her bosom white as the hawthorn buds,
That ope in the month of May.

The skipper he stood beside the helm,
His pipe was in his mouth,
And he watched how the veering flaw did blow
The smoke now West, now South.

Subtext

Is the content or meaning that lies underneath the texts; the unspoken thoughts and motives of characters; what they really think and believe rather than what they say and do.

Ex. in *Famous Blue Raincoat* the poet seems to have forgiven his brother but it is implied that he still considers him to be his enemy and is angry with him.

Empathy

Is the experience of understanding another person's condition from their perspective. You place yourself in their shoes and feel what they are feeling.

To fully appreciate any novel and many poems it is essential that we, as the reader, empathise with the characters the author or poet creates.

Foreshadowing

A literary device where an author hints at certain plot developments that will occur later in the story.

Genre

The term for any category of literature or other forms of art or entertainment.

Some examples of Literary Genres are:

Action	Adventure	Chick-Lit
Children's	Comedy	Crime
Fantasy	Historical	Horror
Mystery	Romance	Science-fiction
Teen	Thriller	Urban

Some examples of Poetry Genres are:

Acrostic	Epic	Graphic
Haiku	Jazz	Limerick
Metaphysical	Narrative	Nonsense
Nursery	Performance	
Romantic	Sonnet	War

Symbolism

The practice of representing things by means of symbols or of attributing symbolic meanings or significance to objects, events, or relationships

Key Features

The most important or prominent feature of a poem or work of literature. In a poem this will be the Key poetic device that is used such as imagery or personification. In a passage from a novel it will be a Key word, phrase or technique such as Foreshadowing.

Tragedy

A serious work which ends with the downfall of an otherwise heroic figure. Typical themes include jealousy, revenge, ambition, and passion. Heroes in these tragedies are commonly articulate and important, but they display at least one significant weakness which will ultimately overcome the other virtues of the hero involved and lead to their downfall.

Comedy

A "Comedy", in its Elizabethan usage, had a very different meaning from modern comedy. A Shakespearean comedy is one that has a happy ending, usually involving marriages between the unmarried characters, and a tone and style that is more light-hearted than Shakespeare's other plays.

History

The histories might be more accurately called the "English history plays" and include King John and Henry VIII as well as a continuous sequence of eight plays covering the Wars of the Roses. Most of Shakespeare's History plays were really Tudor propaganda and designed to flatter Queen Elizabeth 1, showing she had a divine right to rule (as opposed to true history where the Tudors had stolen the throne of England by killing Richard III the true king in the civil war known as Wars of the Roses!)

Structure

Structure: the relationship or organization of the component parts of a work of art or literature.

In other words the framework of a work of literature; the organization or over-all design of a work. The structure of a play may be Acts and Scenes; a novel Chapters and a poem Stanzas. With poetry we also include the defining features of the poem such as a rhyme scheme, line length, alliteration or simile as part of the structure.