

Poetry Terms Packet



Name: _____

Class color: _____

Keys to Understanding Poetry



1. Don't stop reading at the end of each line- wait for punctuation!
2. Check for meaning after each stanza
3. Always look for the main idea
4. Use your poetry terms to help determine meaning

After reading any poem, you should be able to:

- Tell who the **speaker** is- it is NOT automatically the author
- Explain how the **words are organized** on the page
 - How many stanzas?
 - How long are the stanzas? (Is there a pattern?)
 - Rhyme scheme?
- Identify the **mood** of the poem
- Identify and summarize the **main idea** of the poem- the title is often a BIG hint!!
 - The poet may be trying to...
 - Tell a story
 - Reveal a character (Make you learn a lot about one particular character)
 - Express a feeling/mood/ or opinion about a subject
 - Describe a specific scene
- Make a **personal connection**

Poetry Terms

Alliteration: The repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of a word

Ex. Sally sold seashells by the seashore

Concrete poem: a poem in which the shape of the poem suggests its subject.

Metaphor: a figure of speech in which something is described as though it were something else.

(A comparison NOT using _____)

Onomatopoeia: the use of words that imitate sounds

(ex. _____)

Personification: giving human qualities to a non-human object.

(ex. _____)

Refrain: (sometimes called a chorus) is a regularly repeated group of words in a song or poem.

Rhyme scheme: the regular pattern of rhyming words in a poem, often labeled with letters.

Rhythm: the beat of a poem or song.

Simile: A comparison using like or as

Stanza: a grouping of lines in a poem similar to a paragraph

Symbol: Anything that stands for or represents something else.

Ex. A dove is a symbol of peace

The flag is a symbol for a country.

Alliteration

Inflatable Alliteration:

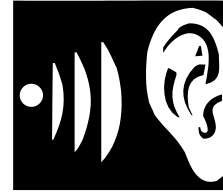
Example: Benjy
Beautiful Benjy
Beautiful Benjy burst
Beautiful Benjy burst bubbles
Beautiful Benjy burst bubbles bravely!

*Directions: Create two of your own examples of Inflatable Alliteration. Each should be 4 or more lines long. *The final result (the last line) should be a sentence that makes sense!!*

Hints: One word is usually a name or object
Then add an adjective to describe that name or object
Next add a verb

****Note:** *It is ok to include words like a, an, the, or and even though they may not fit your alliteration pattern.*

Onomatopoeia



Use the chart below to brainstorm some examples of Onomatopoeia.

Animal Sounds	Vehicle Sounds	Nature Sounds	Other Sounds
Woof!	Clunk!	Pitter pat	Boing!

Identify the onomatopoeia in each of the following sentences:

1. Woosh! The jump shot went through the basket.
2. The car engine made a foreboding psst sound before it stopped running.
3. The book fell to the floor with a crashing thump.
4. The door bell rang, ding, dong.
5. I heard the steady trickle of the stream outside my window.

Extra credit option:

Create a comic strip using at least 2 examples of onomatopoeia.

- The comic should contain at least 4 scenes
- It should have a logical storyline.
- Clearly label with your name and class period
- Coloring is optional
- It MUST be your ORIGINAL work!

Similes and Metaphors

Similes

In everyday language, we describe things by comparing them with other things. Comparisons using like or as are similes

She was as brave as a lion.

He was as silly as a headless chook.

His face felt like sandpaper.

She addressed the children like a sergeant-major.

Metaphors

We can make comparisons without "as" or "like".

This is a hidden comparison, and the technical name for it is a **metaphor**.

We use metaphors all the time in everyday language. Often we are probably not conscious that they are metaphors.

The whole enterprise had a fishy smell.

Your letter was buried under my papers.

That salesman was a shark.

We distinguish between **literal meanings** and **metaphorical meanings**.

The footpath was icy. (literal meaning)

Her gaze was icy. (metaphorical meaning)

He couldn't digest anything the nurse gave him to eat.
(literal meaning)

He couldn't digest anything the nurse told him.
(metaphorical meaning)

Simile and Metaphor Practice

Directions: Read each of the sentences below. Then tell if there is a simile or a metaphor in each.

1. He slept like a baby. _____
2. When my dad found out about the fight, he was as angry as a bull. _____
3. Those people were at the bottom of the social heap. _____
4. He's a garbage disposal- he'll eat anything. _____
5. My mother was running around like a chicken with her head cut off. _____
6. The baby's scream was a piercing siren. _____
7. Jimmy was moving as slowly as molasses in January. _____
8. Without her glasses, Gloria is as blind as a bat. _____
9. His bedroom was a scary cave with no light. _____
10. She's a babbling brook because her mouth never stops running.

Metaphor Poetry

Lost By Jewel

Lost
is a puzzle
of stars
That breathes
Like water
And chews
Like stone

Alone
Is a reminder
Of how far
Acceptance
Is from
Understanding

Fear
Is a bird
That believes itself
Into extinction

Desperation
The honest recognition
Of false truth

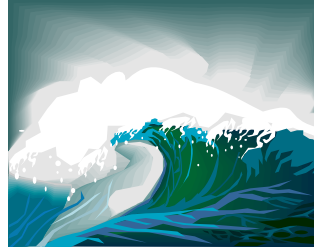
Hope
Seeing who you really are
At your highest
Is who you will become

Metaphor poetry continued

Anger

- by Christine Feret

Anger
is a wave
Climbing onto the shore
Approaching your sandcastle.
As it draws nearer
You attempt to hinder
The passage of the wave,
But the wave crashes
And destroys your castle.



Your turn:

Now you will create your own metaphor poem. The requirements include:

- Minimum of 3 stanzas (Each stanza should be on a different topic.)
- Minimum of 4 lines per stanza
- Written in poem format- choose carefully where you break your lines
- It must be your own original work

Personification

Complete the personification poem using the supplied template.

Personification Poem Pattern	
I am (a)	_____
I like (to)	_____
I (verb) (describing phrase)	_____
I am (action phrase)	_____
I always (often) (action phrase)	_____
I sometime (action phrase)	_____
I feel	_____
I am (a)	_____

Two examples:

I am a cell phone
I like to chat all the time
I am very helpful in an emergency
I often play games with my owner
I sometimes interrupt when my owner is busy
I feel important wherever I go
I am a cell phone

I am the rain
I like to soar through the air and make everything wet
I fall out of the clouds
I hose the earth and announce winter
I always come on lonely days
I sometimes interrupt baseball games
I feel important when I water flowers and keep everything alive.
I am the rain.

<http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/lessons/poem.html>