Name:

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English 8 Per: team:

Date:

Literary Terms: Poetry Terms

Alliteration: The repetition of initial consonant sounds in words such as “rough and ready.” Example: “Our gang paces the pier like an old myth.”

Assonance: The repetition of vowel sounds without the repetition of consonants. Example: ‘My words like silent raindrops fell.”

Consonance: The repetition of consonant sounds. Although it is similar to alliteration, consonance is not limited to the first letters of words. Example: “… and high school girls with clear skin smiles.”

Couplet: Two lines of verse the same length that usually rhyme.

End rhyme: The rhyming of words that appear at the ends of two or more lines of poetry.

Enjambment: The running over of a sentence or thought from one line of poetry to another.

Free Verse: Poetry that does not have a regular meter or rhyme scheme.

Haiku: A form of Japanese poetry that has three lines; the first line has five syllables, the second has seven syllables, and the third has five syllables. The subject of the Haiku has traditionally been nature.

Example: Behind me the moon

Brushes shadows of pine trees Lightly on the floor.

Meter: The pattern of repetition of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line of poetry.

Onomatopoeia: The use of a word whose sound suggests its meaning. Examples: clang, buzz, twang. Refrain: The repetition of a line or phrase of a poem at regular intervals, especially at the end of each stanza. A song’s refrain may be called the chorus.

Repetition: the repeating of a word or phrase within a poem or a prose piece to create a sense of rhythm. Example: “His laugh, his dare, his shrug/ sag ghostlike…”

Rhyme: The similarity or likeness of sound existing between two words. Example: “sat” and “cat” are perfect rhymes because the vowel and final consonant sounds are exactly the same.

Rhythm: The ordered, or free occurrences of sound in poetry. Ordered or regular rhythm is called meter. Free occurrence of sound is called free verse.

**Stanza**: A division of poetry named for the number of lines it contains.

1.Couplet: two line stanza 2. Triplet: three line stanza 3. Quatrain: four line stanza 4. Quintet: five line stanza 5. Sestet: six line stanza 6. Septet: seven line stanza 7. Octave: eight line stanza

Personification: A literary device in which the author speaks of or describes an animal, object, or idea, as if it were a person. Example: “The rock stubbornly refused to move!”

Simile: A comparison of two unlike things in which a word of comparison (like or as) is used. Example: “She stood in front of the altar, shaking like a freshly caught trout.”

Metaphor: A comparison of two unlike things in which no word of comparison (like or as) is used.

Example: “ A green plant is a machine that runs on solar energy.”

Antithesis: An opposition, or contrast, of ideas. Example: “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times…”

Hyperbole: An exaggeration or overstatement. Example: “I have seen this river so wide it only had one bank. “

Imagery: The words or phrases a writer selects to create a certain picture in the reader’s mind. Imagery is usually based on sensory details. Example: “The sky was dark and gloomy, the air was damp and raw, the streets were wet and sloppy.”

Symbol: A person, a place, a thing, or an event used to represent something else. Example: A dove is a symbol of peace.

Pun: A humorous play on two or more meanings of the same word or on two different words with the same sound.

Paradox: A paradox is a statement that contradicts itself and still seems true somehow. Example: “Nobody goes to the restaurant because it’s too crowded.” “I know that I know nothing.”

Oxymoron: Two opposite words/ ideas placed together for effect. “Cruel kindness”; “hell’s angels”

The simple difference between a paradox and an oxymoron is that a paradox is made up of several words to express the contradiction; an oxymoron is two opposite words placed side-by-side.

Denotation: the dictionary definition of a word

Connotation: the emotional meaning of a word or the implied meaning of a world.

**What other poetry terms have you learned in this unit?**