



THE LANGUAGE OF POETRY

TIER 3 VOCABULARY

TIER 3 OR SUBJECT RELATED VOCABULARY- POETRY

1. alliteration
2. consonance
3. assonance
4. onomatopoeia
5. figure of speech
6. simile
7. metaphor
8. paradox
9. juxtaposition
10. enjambment
11. rhythm
12. internal rhyme
13. tone
14. setting
15. situation
16. speaker
17. stanza
18. conotation/denotaion
19. cliché
20. ambiguity

alliteration- the repetition of initial stressed, consonant sounds in a series of words within a phrase or verse line.

“We saw the sea sound sing, we heard the salt sheet tell,”


-from Dylan Thomas’s “Lie, Still, Sleep Becalmed.”



consonance- a resemblance in sound between two words, or an initial rhyme. Consonance can also refer to shared consonants, whether in sequence (“bed” and “bad”) or reversed (“bud” and “dab”).

“The big doll being broken and the sawdust fall
all scattered by my shoes, not crying”

-from “Anniversary,” by Marie Ponsot



assonance- the repetition of vowel sounds without repeating consonants; sometimes called vowel rhyme.

“With its leaping, and deep, cool murmur.”

-from “In a Garden,” by Amy Lowell



onomatopoeia- a figure of speech in which the sound of a word imitates its sense. (like choo-choo, hiss, and buzz).

“boom of the tingling strings”

-from “Piano” by D.H. Lawrence



figure of speech- an expressive, nonliteral use of language.

Examples are hyperbole (exaggeration), metaphor, or simile



Simile- a comparison made with “as,” “like,” or “than.”

O my Luve is like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June;
O my Luve is like the melody
That's sweetly played in tune.

-from “A Red, Red Rose” by Robert Burns



Metaphor- A comparison that is made directly (for example, John Keats's "Beauty is truth, truth beauty" from "Ode to a Grecian Urn") or less directly (for example, Shakespeare's "marriage of two minds").



Paradox- as a figure of speech it is a seemingly self-contradictory phrase or concept that illuminates a truth.

For instance, Wallace Stevens, in "The Snow Man," describes the "Nothing that is not there and the nothing that is."



juxtaposition- the fact of two things being seen or placed close together with contrasting effect.

Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

-from “Do not go gentle into that good night” by
Dylan Thomas



enjambment- the running-over of a sentence or phrase
from one poetic line to the next, without terminal
punctuation; the opposite of end-stopped.

the back wings

of the

hospital where

nothing

-from "Between Walls," by William Carlos Williams



Rythym- An audible pattern in verse established by the intervals between stressed syllables.

Out of the cradle endlessly rocking,
Out of the mocking-bird's throat, the musical shuttle,
Out of the Ninth-month midnight,

-Walt Whitman



internal rhyme-

Two or more rhyming words occur within the same line.

Two or more rhyming words will appear in the middle of two separate lines or sometimes in more.

A word at the end of a line rhymes with one or more in the middle of the following line.

“I ain’t happy no mo’

And I wish that I had died.”

-from “The Weary Blues” by Langston Hughes (internal rhyme)



Tone: The poet's attitude toward the poem's speaker, reader, and subject matter, as interpreted by the reader. Often described as a "mood" that pervades the experience of reading the poem, it is created by the poem's vocabulary, metrical regularity or irregularity, syntax, use of figurative language and rhyme.



setting- where and when the poem takes place.
The circumstances of the poem.

situation- the circumstances surrounding the
poem, what is happening literally in the poem.



speaker- the narrative voice of a poem that speaks of his or her situation or feelings. Remember that in poetry, the speaker is NOT the same as the author of the poem. You cannot assume that the feelings and ideas expressed in the poem are the author's thoughts and feelings.



Stanza – poetry’s version of a paragraph, a stanza is an arrangement of lines of verse in a pattern usually repeated throughout the poem.



connotation- an idea or feeling that a word invokes in addition to its literal or primary meaning.


Opposite of...

denotation- the literal or primary meaning of a word, in contrast to the feelings or ideas that the word suggests.



cliché- a phrase or opinion that is overused and betrays a lack of original thought.

examples:

- A broken heart
 - Back stabber
 - Driving me crazy
 - Love is blind
 - My soul laid bare
 - Red roses
 - stars like diamonds
 - sands of time
 - til the end of time
 - tip of the iceberg
 - one in a million
 - time heals all wounds
- 

ambiguity- a word, statement, or situation with two or more possible meanings is said to be ambiguous.

We find ambiguity in the first line of Keats's "Ode to a Grecian Urn":

"Thou still unravish'd bride of quietness,"

The use of word "still" is ambiguous in nature.

"Still" here may mean "an unmoving object" or it may be interpreted as "yet unchanged".

