

POETRY OVERVIEW

NAME OF FORM	ATTRIBUTES	EXAMPLES [Title/author]
ABC		
Acrostic		
Alexandrine		
Ballad		
Blank Verse		
Burlesque		
Cacophony		“Jabberwocky” by Lewis Carroll
Canzone		
Chain Verse		
Carpe Diem		
Classicist – Greek and Roman		
Couplet		
Dactyl		
Double-dactyl		
Elegy		
Epic		
Epigram		

Epitaph		
Epithalamium		
Free Verse		
Ghazal		
Haiku		
Heroic Couplet		
Idyll		
Jintishi		
Lay		
Limerick		
List		
Lyric		
Memoriam Stanza		
Name		
Narrative		
Ode		
Pantoum		
Pastoral		

Petrarchan		
Quatrain		
Romanticist – 18 th /19 th Century		
Rondeau		
Ruba'i		
Senryu		
Sestina		
Shape		
Sijo		
Sonnet		
Spenserian Stanza		
Tanka		
Terza rima		
Triolet		
Verse		
Villanelle	Ballad-like song from the Middle Ages; villanelle means “Country Song”; starts with the statement of its central theme; has a specific rhyme scheme; earlier villanelles were in trimeter or tetrameter; 20 th century villanelles were in pentameter	“Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night” by Dylan Thomas
Other:		

RHYME SCHEMES

Poems that rhyme have a pattern to their rhyming. The patterns are recorded using letters of the alphabet:

Rhyme scheme for a Shakespearean sonnet: ABAB CDCD EFEF GG

Rhyme scheme for a Spenserian sonnet: ABAB BCBC CDCD EE

Rhyme scheme for a Limerick: AABBA

Rhyme scheme for a Villanelle: A1bA2 abA1 abA2 abA1 abA2 abA1A2; A1 and A2 are repeated and rhyme with “a”

RHYTHM AND METER

All poems have rhythm, but not all follow a particular, fixed meter. For those that do, here are the basics:

FEET

Feet are the syllabic chunks that comprise the text of a poem.

Iamb – two syllables: unstressed, stressed

Trochee – two syllables; stressed, unstressed

Spondee – two syllables: both stressed

Dactyl – three syllables: stressed, unstressed, unstressed

Double-dactyl – two dactyls in a row; also a form of verse: “higgledy, piggledy”

Anapest – three syllables: unstressed, unstressed, stressed

Pyrrich – two syllables: both unstressed

Amphibrach – three syllables: unstressed, stressed, unstressed

CAESURAE

Caesurae are the breaks and pauses that contribute to a text’s meter.

METER

Meter is the rhythmic structure of a poem. Feet and caesurae work together to create the meter. Basic metric variations:

Monometer – meter of one foot

Dimeter – meter of two feet

Trimeter – meter of three feet

Tetrameter – meter of four feet

Pentameter – meter of five feet

Hexameter – meter of six feet

Heptameter – meter of seven feet

Octameter – meter of eight feet

EXAMPLES

Iambic pentameter: da-DA, da-DA, da-DA, da-DA, da-DA

Anapestic tetrameter: da-da-DA, da-da-DA, da-da-DA, da-da-DA

Trochaic heptameter: DA-da, DA-da, DA-da, DA-da, DA-da, DA-da, DA-da

OTHERS:

KEY LITERARY TERMS

Act	Fixed form	Romance
Allegory	Flashback	Satire
Alliteration	Foil	Satyr
Allusion	Foot	Scansion
Ambiguity	Foreshadowing	Scene
Anagram	Formalism	Scheme
Anaphora	Genre	Semantics
Anastrophe	Hamartia	Sestet
Antagonist	Hero	Sestina
Aphorism	Horatian satire	Setting
Archetype	Hubris	Simile
Aside	Hyperbole	Slant rhyme
Assonance	Hypertext	Speaker
Asyndeton	Iamb	Spondee
Bildungsroman	Idiolect	Spoonerism
Caesura	Imagery	Stanza
Canon	Infective	Static
Canzone	Inflection	Strophe
Catharsis	Irony	Subplot
Chiasmus	Juxtaposition	Syllepsis
Chorus	Malapropism	Symbolism
Cinquain	Melodrama	Synecdoche
Circumlocution	Metaphor	Synesthesia
Cliché	Metonymy	Synopsis
Colloquialism	Mood	Syntax
Conflict	Motif	Terza rima
Connotation	Mythology	Theme
Consonance	Nemesis	Thesis
Constructivism	Octave	Tone
Couplet	Oedipal	Tragedy
Criticism	Oedipus complex	Tragic flaw
Deconstructionism	Onomatopoeia	Tragicomedy
Denotation	Ottava rima	Travesty
Denouement	Oxymoron	Triplet
Deus ex machina	Paradox	Trochee
Dialect	Parody	Trope
Diction	Pedantic	Unreliable narrator
Didactic	Periphrasis	Utopia
Doggerel	Personification	Verisimilitude
Doppelgänger	Picaresque	Vernacular
Dynamic	Plot	Verse
Dystopia	Poetry	Versification
Electra complex	Point of View	Zeugma
End-stopped line	Portmanteau	
Enjambment	Précis	OTHERS:
Epic	Prologue	
Epilogue	Prose	
Epistolary	Prosody	
Epithet	Protagonist	
Epode	Pun	
Euphemism	Quatrain	
Explication	Refrain	
Exposition	Rhetoric	
Farce	Rhyme	
Figurative language	Rhythm	

