

Poetry Basics Lesson one

Definitions

language meant to convey meaning in a more expansive and less condensed way, frequently using more complete logical or narrative structures than poetry does

Prose comes from the Latin "prosa" which means "straightforward." Prose can be written or spoken and has no formal metrical structure. It is basically ordinary language - the way people speak

Prose

shades and nuances of meaning can be difficult to interpret and can cause different readers to "hear" a particular piece of poetry differently. While there are reasonable interpretations, there can never be a definitive interpretation.

language is used for its aesthetic qualities in addition to, or instead of, its notional and semantic content.

written in lines, rather than sentences and the normal rules of language or grammar are often broken.

Poetry often has a strong rhythm or beat

concentrated language

Poetry

Form

Appearance on Page

Groups of lines arranged together

Couplet

Two line

Triplet

three line

Quatrain

Four line

Quintet

Five line

Sestet

Six line

Septet

Seven line

Octave

Eight line

Poetry Form

Stanzas

Poetry Tools

Tone

emotional spin, edge, attitude or voice a poet give to a poem. The use of words, the shading, warmth or coolness by which the words paint their picture.

Rhyme Scheme

regular pattern of rhyme, one that is consistent throughout the entire poem

Rhyme

A word with an ending sounding the same as the ending of another word.

Rhythm

the pattern formed by stressed and unstressed syllables

Results From

Flow

Unhindered steady movement, move freely from place to place

rhythm, word choices, and good use of poetic devices

beat and number of syllables in a line

Alliteration

repetition of the same or similar sounds at the beginning of words in close proximity in a poem.

Syllable

unit of spoken language consisting of one or more vowel sounds alone, a syllabic consonant alone, or any of these with one or more consonant sounds

Near Rhyme

Rhyme in which either the vowels or the consonants of stressed syllables are identical, as in eyes, light; years, yours, but the words do not actually rhyme