

Poetry - Core Information

1. How To Read a Poem



Step	Action
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If applicable, read the question about the poem first. This will tell you the main theme or idea of the poem Read the title. This may tell you the main theme or idea of the poem Read the poem from start to finish (out loud if you can!)
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the poem again What is happening in the poem? What moment does the poem describe? Who is the speaker of the poem? What is the tone of the poem? Does this change?
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Now, look at the language of the poem and annotate Are there any patterns in the language? Consider how the language connects to the theme and tone of the poem Similes, metaphors, personification, imagery etc.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finally, look at the structure of the poem Does it have a rhyme scheme? Does it have a particular shape? Stanzas or one block of text? Caesura, enjambment, repetition, cyclical ideas, couplets etc

2. Words to Describe the Tone of a Poem



Positive Tone	Negative Tone
Assertive	Accusatory
Admiring	Bitter
Benevolent	Defiant
Enthusiastic	Critical
Humorous	Frustrated
Impassioned	Jaded
Intimate	Outraged
Loving	Regretful
Nostalgic	Solemn
Sentimental	Worried
Inspired	Defensive

3. Key Poetry Terms: Structure



Term	Definition
Stanza	A group of lines in a poem.
Caesura	When there is a pause within a line of poetry.
Enjambment	When the lines of a poem run on without a pause.
Perspective	First, second, or third person perspective.
Repetition	When a word, phrase or idea is repeated.
Rhetorical question	A question used to make a statement or to make the reader think. Doesn't require an answer.
Anaphora	The repetition of the same word or phrase at the beginning of lines of poetry.
Rhyme	The same sounds at the ends of lines of poetry.
Rhyming couplets	Two lines that rhyme

4. Key Poetry Terms: Language



Term	Definition	Sentence Stems
Simile	When two or more things are compared using 'as' or 'like'.	The writer uses the simile to emphasise the connections between...
Metaphor	When something is described as if it is something else.	The writer uses the metaphor to convey the impression of...
Personification	Giving non-human things human characteristics.	The writer uses the metaphor to emphasise the connections between...
Imagery	Visually descriptive writing/ painting a picture with words.	The writer uses imagery to paint a vivid image of...
Alliteration	The repetition of the same letter at the beginning of two or more words.	The writer uses alliteration to emphasise...
Plosives	Hard, power sounds such as 'p', 'b', and 'd'	The writer uses plosives to emphasise
Sibilance	A repeated soft 's' sound.	The writer uses sibilance to accentuate the softness... The writer uses sibilance to establish a sinister atmosphere...
Onomatopoeia	Words that sound like the thing they are describing.	The writer uses onomatopoeia to emphasise the sound of ...
Juxtaposition/ Contrast	When opposite ideas or images are placed together.	The writer uses juxtaposition to draw attention to...
Pathetic fallacy	Giving human emotions to non-human things.	The writer uses pathetic fallacy to convey the impression of...