

the woodshed:

Name:

Literary Element Dictionary for Creative Writers Part I

We will incorporate all of these into our written pieces this semester

For each underlined term, record your own example

For every other term, record an example from the poetry we read in class

Figurative Language:

Simile: figure of speech that makes a comparison between two unlike things using *like*, *as*, *than*, or *resembles*

"See, I drop the greats like clumsy waiters drop plates." - Mr. Man on "Fortified Live," *Fortified Live*

"RRRRROAW RRRROAW like a dungeon dragon, change your little drawers because your pants are saggin'." - Busta Rhymes on "Scenario"

Metaphor: figure of speech that makes a comparison between two unlike things that does not use a connective word

The sky was the deep purple of a blooming bruise.

Personification: metaphor in which a nonhuman thing is talked about as if it were human

Idiom: expression peculiar to a particular language that means something different from the literal meaning

Take the bull by da horns. Just do it

Sound Patterns:

Repetition: When words, phrases or whole lines repeat within a poem or stanza

Onomatopoeia: When words sound like the object or action they describe (whoosh, murmur)

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Alliteration: When the initial sound of words repeats (**F**anny **f**ell **f**rom the **ph**one booth)

Note that we are talking about sound, not letters—for example **g**uess and **g**esture do not create an example of alliteration.

Consonance: When internal consonant sounds repeat (c**ome** help h**im** r**em**ember the t**ime**)

Assonance: When internal vowel sounds repeat (s**crea**m under**nea**th the **dee**p sh**ee**ts of rain)

Rhyme comes in various shapes:

End Rhyme: Whose woods these are I think I **know**
His house is in the village **though**

Internal Rhyme: Then Susan **fell** into **hell** on earth

Slant or Near Rhyme: moon/mood, sigh/sign or any other words that “almost rhyme, but not quite”

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Meter: The regular patterns of stressed and unstressed syllables of some types of poetry.

The most common is the iamb: ta **da**, ta **da** (unstressed followed by stressed) but there are several others as well.

Enjambment: When we use punctuation and placement to make the reader move without pausing from one line of poetry to the next. "Looking for Judas" on page 15 and "What the Mirror Said" on page 23 in our *Read These Poems!* contain fine examples of poetic enjambment.

Imagery: phrases and lines that appeal to one or more of the five senses

Visual image:

Olfactory (smell) image:

Auditory (sound) image:

Taste image:

Tactile (touch) image:

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OTHER POETIC TERMS:

Lyric Poetry: poetry that expresses a speaker's emotions or thoughts and does not tell a story

Free verse: poetry that does not have a regular meter or rhyme scheme

Blank verse: poetry written in unrhymed iambic pentameter

Stanza: a group of consecutive lines that form a single unit in a poem

Couplet: two consecutive lines of poetry that form a unit