

Elements of Poetry

A **poem** is a form of creative writing that uses the sounds, rhythms, and emotional power of language to express ideas. Poems often explore feelings and ideas. Writers use a variety of techniques to express themselves in poetry.

Alliteration: Two or more words in a line of poetry that begin with the same sound.

Imagery: Descriptive language that appeals to the senses and helps readers picture what they are reading. (Example: *Her pure voice rang out as clear as a bell in the cool, damp morning air.*)

Metaphor: a figure of speech that compares one thing to another by saying it is that thing. (Example: *He was a tower of strength.*)

Onomatopoeia: The use of words that sound like the things they represent. (Examples: *Boom, clang*)

Personification: A technique in which human characteristics, abilities, thoughts, or feelings are given to an object or animal. (Example: *The gleaming sportscar begged to go out for a drive.*)

Rhyme: When words end with the same sound. (Example: *day* and *stay*, *care* and *compare*)

Rhyme Scheme: The pattern of rhyming lines in each stanza of a poem. The following poem has an ABAB rhyme scheme:

I like my cat. A

My cat is nice. B

She has a hat. A

She chases mice. B

Rhythm: A flow of syllables or words that creates a regular beat.

Simile: A figure of speech that compares two things using *like* or *as*. (Example: *Stars sparkled like diamonds in the night sky.*)

Stanza: A group of lines that relates to one idea.