POETRY NOTES
POETRY is...

a type of literature that expresses ideas and feelings, or tells a story in a specific form (usually using lines and stanzas)
POETIC FORM

- **FORM** - the appearance of the words on the page
- **LINE** - a group of words together on one line of the poem
- **STANZA** - a group of lines arranged together

A word is dead When it is said, Some say.

I say it just Begins to live That day.

- Emily Dickinson
POETIC SOUND EFFECTS
RHYTHM

The beat created by the sounds of the words in a poem. Rhythm can be created by using, meter, rhymes, alliteration, and refrain.
METER

- A pattern of stressed (strong) and unstressed (weak) syllables
- Each unit or part of the pattern is called a “foot”
- Types of Feet:
  - Iambic  - unstressed, stressed
  - Trochaic  - stressed, unstressed
  - Anaplectic - unstressed, unstressed, stressed
  - Dactylic  - stressed, unstressed, unstressed, unstressed
RHYMES

Words sound alike because they share the same ending vowel and consonant sounds. A word always rhymes with itself.

LAMP
STAMP

↑ Share the short “a” vowel sound
↑ Share the combined “mp” consonant sound
RHYME SCHEME

- a pattern of rhyming words or sounds (usually end rhyme, but not always).

- Use the letters of the alphabet to represent sounds to be able to visually “see” the pattern.
  
  (See next slide for an example.)
A mighty creature is the germ,
Though smaller than the pachyderm.
His customary dwelling place
Is deep within the human race.
His childish pride he often pleases

-from “The Germ” by Ogden Nash
A word at the end of one line rhymes with a word at the end of another line

Hector the Collector
Collected bits of string.
Collected dolls with broken heads
And rusty bells that would not ring.

-”Hector the Collector” by Shel Silverstein
INTERNAL RHYME

A word inside a line rhymes with another word on the same line.

Ah, distinctly I remember, it was in the bleak December

- “The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe
NEAR RHYME

Also known as imperfect or “close enough” rhyme. The words share EITHER the same vowel or consonant sound BUT NOT BOTH

ROSE
LOSE

Different vowel sounds (long “o” and “oo” sound)
Share the same consonant sound (“s”)
OTHER TYPES OF POETIC DEVICES
A sound, word, phrase or line repeated regularly in a poem, usually at the end of each stanza or verse, such as the chorus in a song.

*There lived a lady by the North Sea shore,*
*Lay the bent to the bonny broom*
*Two daughters were the babes she bore.*
*Fa la la la la la la la la.*
*As one grew bright as is the sun,*
*Lay the bent to the bonny broom*
*So coal black grew the other one.*
*Fa la la la la la la la la.*

-”The Cruel Sister” by Francis J. Child
TONE

Used in poetry to convey feeling and emotion, and set the mood for the work. This can be done through word choice, the grammatical arrangement of words (syntax), imagery, or details that are included or omitted.

*I met a traveler from an antique land.*

-from "Ozymandias" by Shelley

This line immediately generates a story-telling atmosphere, just as it is with the phrase, "Once upon a time." An audience is clearly implied.
Connotation vs Denotation

Connotation: an emotional or social association with a word, giving meaning beyond the literal definition.

Denotation: the specific, literal image, idea, concept, or object that a word or phrase refers to.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Denotation</th>
<th>Connotation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a star</td>
<td>ball of light/gas in the sky</td>
<td>a wish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a family</td>
<td>group of related individuals</td>
<td>love, trust, closeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a dog</td>
<td>four legged mammal</td>
<td>friend, protector, pet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE
ALLITERATION

Consonant sounds repeated at the beginnings of words, using two or more words with the same letter.

Ex: Heather Henderson ate seven sandwiches.
ALLUSION

- From the verb “allude” which means “to refer to”
- A reference to someone or something famous.

A tunnel walled and overlaid
With dazzling crystal: we had read
Of rare Aladdin’s wondrous cave,
And to our own his name we gave.

—from “Snowbound” by John Greenleaf Whittier
ANALOGY

- Comparison of two or more unlike things in order to show a similarity in their characteristics

- Two main types:
  - Simile
  - Metaphor
SIMILE

Comparison of two unlike things using “like” or “as”

Friends are like chocolate cake, you can never have too many.
Chocolate cake is like heaven - always amazing you with each taste or feeling.
Chocolate cake is like life with so many different pieces.
Chocolate cake is like happiness, you can never get enough of it.

- “Chocolate Cake” by Anonymous
METAPHOR

Comparison of two unlike things where one word is used to designate the other (one is the other)

A spider is a black dark midnight sky.
Its web is a Ferris wheel.
It has a fat moon body and legs of dangling string.
Its eyes are like little match ends.

- “Spider” by Anonymous
The fog comes on little cat feet.

It sits looking over the harbor and city on silent haunches and then, moves on.

- “Fog” by Carl Sandburg
ASSONANCE

Repeated VOWEL sounds in a line (or lines) of a poem
Often creates Near Rhyme

A leafy sailor even
In a stormy sea
Drinks deep God’s Name
In ecstasy

-”Peaceful Assonance” by Sri Chinmoy
ASSONANCE cont.

_Slow the low_ gradual _moan_ came in the _snowing_.
- From “_Dauber: a poem_” by John Masefield

_Shall ever medicine thee to that sweet sleep_.
- From _Othello_ by William Shakespeare
CONSONANCE

Similar to alliteration EXCEPT:

– repeated consonant sounds can be anywhere in the words, not just at the beginning!

And frightful a nightfall folded rueful a day

...How a lush-kept plush-capped sloe

Will, mouthed to flesh-burst,

Gush!—

- From “The Wreck of the Deutschland” by Gerald Manley Hopkins
the literal meaning of the words is not the meaning of the expression. It means something other than what it actually says.

Feeling under the weather
you could have knocked me down with a feather.
It was like a bolt out of the blue, when I met you.
an English rose, in the flower of youth;...

-from “My Sweet Idiom” by Paul Williams
Language that provides a sensory experience using sight, sound, smell, touch, taste

Soft upon my eyelashes
Turning my cheeks to pink
Softly falling, falling
Not a sound in the air
Delicately designed in snow
Fading away at my touch
Leaving only a glistening drop
And its memory

- “Crystal Cascades” by Mary Fumento
HYPERBOLE

An intentional exaggeration or overstatement, often used for emphasis

Here once the embattled farmers stood
And fired the shot heard round the world

-from "The Concord Hymn" by Ralph Waldo Emerson

LITOTETE

Intentional understatement, used for humor or irony
(Example- naming a slow moving person “Speedy”)
ONOMATOPOEOIA

Words that imitate the sound that they are naming

_Tlot-tlot; tlot-tlot! Had they heard it?_  
_The horse-hoofs ringing clear; Tlot-tlot, tlot-tlot, in the distance?_  
_Were they deaf that they did not hear?_

- from “The Highwayman” by Alfred Noyes
OXYMORON

Combines two usually contradictory terms in a compressed paradox, as in the word *bittersweet* or the phrase *living death*

And faith unfaithful kept him falsely true...
- from *Idylls of the King* by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

*I do here make humbly bold to present them with a short account of themselves...*
- from *A Tale of a Tub* by the poet and author Jonathan Swift

Work entitled "She's All My Fancy Painted Him" by the poet and author Lewis Carroll
PERSONIFICATION

A nonliving thing given human of life-like qualities

Hey diddle, Diddle,
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon;
The little dog laughed
To see such sport,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

-from “The Cat & the Fiddle” by Mother Goose
SYMBOLISM

The use of a word or object which represents a deeper meaning than the words themselves.

It can be a material object or a written sign used to represent something invisible.

_I shall be telling this with a sigh_  
_Somewhere ages and ages hence:_  
_Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—_  
_I took the one less traveled by,  
_And that has made all the difference._

—from “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost
SOME TYPES OF POETRY THAT WE WILL BE STUDYING
NARRATIVE POEMS

- Longer and tells a story, with a beginning, middle, and end
- Generally longer than the lyric styles of poetry because the poet needs to establish characters and a plot

**Example:** “The Highwayman” by Alfred Noyes
LYRICAL POEMS

- Short poem (only a few lines, 1-2 stanzas)
- Usually written in first person point of view
- Expresses an emotion or an idea, or describes a scene
- Does not tell a story and are often musical
- Many of the poems we read will be lyrical
CONCRETE POEMS

Words are arranged to create a picture that relates to the content of the poem

Example: See “Shoes” by Morghan Barnes
ACROSTIC POEMS

The first letter of each line forms a word or phrase (vertically). An acrostic poem can describe the subject or even tell a brief story about it.

After an extensive winter
Pretty tulips
Rise from the once
Icy ground bringing fresh signs of
Life.

- "April" by Anonymous
FREE VERSE POEMS

- Does NOT have any repeating patterns of stressed and unstressed syllables
- Does NOT have rhyme
- Very conversational - sounds like someone talking with you

Example: See “Fog” by Carl Sandburg
Does have a regular meter, usually iambic pentameter (five sets of stressed/unstressed)

Does NOT have rhyme

Used by classical playwrights, like Shakespeare

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˘      /     ˘       /         ˘        /     ˘     /    ˘       /
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*To swell the gourd, and plump the ha-zel shells*

-from “Ode to Autumn” by John Keats
OTHER FORMS OF POETRY
COUPLLET

- A poem of only two lines
- Both lines have an end rhyme and the same meter
- Often found at the end of a sonnet

Whether or not we find what we are seeking is idle, biologically speaking.

-at the end of a sonnet by Edna St. Vincent Millay
HAIKU

Japanese style poem written in three lines
Focuses traditionally on nature
Lines respectively are 5 syllables, 7 syllables, and 5 syllables

Whitecaps on the bay:
A broken signboard banging
In the April wind.

-untitled haiku by Richard Wright
QUATRAIN

- Stanza or short poem containing four lines
- Lines 2 and 4 must rhyme, while lines 1 and 3 may or may not rhyme
- Variations in rhyming patterns (abab, abcb)

O, my luve's like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June:
O, my luve's like the melodie
That's sweetly played in tune.

-from “A Red, Red Rose” by Robert Burns
CINQUAIN

- Stanza or short poem containing five lines
- 1 word, 2 words, 3 words, 4 words, 1 word
- Patterns and syllables are changing!
Cinquain Pattern #1

Line 1: One word
Line 2: Two words
Line 3: Three words
Line 4: Four words
Line 5: One word

Dinosaurs
Lived once,
Long ago, but
Only dust and dreams
Remain

-by Cindy Barden
CINQUAINE cont’

Cinquain Pattern #2

Line 1: A noun
Mules

Line 2: Two adjectives
Stubborn, unmoving

Line 3: Three -ing words
Braying, kicking, resisting

Line 4: A phrase
Not wanting to listen

Line 5: Another word for the noun
People

-by Cindy Barden
Cinquain Pattern #3
Line 1: Two syllables
Line 2: Four syllables
Line 3: Six syllables
Line 4: Eight syllables
Line 5: Two syllables

Baseball
Bat cracks against
The pitch, sending it out
Over the back fence, I did it!
Homerun

-by Cindy Barden
What is a limerick, Mother?

It's a form of verse, said Brother

In which lines one and two

Rhyme with five when it's through

And three and four rhyme with each other.

- untitled and author unknown
BALLAD

- Tells a story, similar to a folk tale or legend
- Usually set to music
- Simple repeating rhymes, often with a refrain

Oh the ocean waves may roll,
And the stormy winds may blow,
While we poor sailors go skipping aloft
And the land lubbers lay down below, below, below
And the land lubbers lay down below.

-from "The Mermaid" by Anonymous
SHAKESPEAREAN SONNET

- Fourteen lines with a specific rhyme scheme
- Written in 3 quatrains and ends with a couplet
- Rhyme scheme is \textit{abab cdcd efef gg}

**Example:** See sonnet in notes
PERSONA POEMS

- a poem written in the 1st person point of view
- writer imagines s/he is an animal, an object, a famous person - anything s/he is not

I still remember the sun on my bones.
I ate pomegranates and barley cakes.
I wore a necklace of purple stones.
And sometimes I saw a crocodile
Slither silently into the Nile.

-from “The Mummy’s Smile” by Shelby K. Irons
POINT OF VIEW

POET
the author of the poem, the person who actually wrote it

VS

SPEAKER
the “narrator” of the poem, the voice telling us the thoughts/feelings/story