

# TYPES OF POETRY

AND SOME IMPORTANT

TERMS AND DEVICES

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# Lyric Poetry

a small poem that displays the thoughts and feelings of the poet.

Personal poem

Example – “If I Could Tell You” by W.H. Auden

# Narrative poetry:

**Narrative poetry** tells a story with a plot, characters, and a setting. It is one of the oldest and most straightforward forms of poetry. It tells a story, often in a chronological sequence, using poetic devices to create a vivid and engaging narrative.

e.g. Narrative poems include all epic poetry

# Dramatic poetry:

Dramatic poetry combines elements of both narrative and dramatic literature. It presents a story or conflict through the voices of different characters, often in the form of monologues or dialogues. Dramatic poetry falls into the two great classes of tragedy and comedy, supplemented by the minor variations of farce, masque, morality play, miracle play, mystery play, interlude, and opera. Dramatic poetry tells a story using a character's own thoughts or spoken statement

e.g. The poem "My Last Duchess" by Robert Browning is an example of dramatic poetry

# Myth

a traditional poem that tells a historic story or a popular belief; often deals with heroes, the supernatural, or ancestors

Example- “Orpheus” by William Shakespeare



# Rhythm

a patterned flow of  
sound

# Epithet

descriptive term used  
to characterize a  
person or a thing



# Imagery

Word or group of words which appeal to one or more of the senses: sight, taste, touch, hearing, and smell.



# Implied Metaphor

Uses words to suggest the comparison such as love “bursts into bloom.” It does not directly state the comparison.

# Epic

a story poem that  
often celebrates a  
hero or legend (Odysseus  
or Hercules)

Example- old English text “Beowulf”

# Onomatopoeia

words that are  
pronounced to  
imitate their sounds

(buzz, fizz, click, zoom, chirp).

# Symbolism

Stands for itself and for something beyond itself as well.

(The bald eagle symbolizes the United States.)

# Alliteration

The repetition of the same consonant sounds in a line of poetry.

(seven silver swans swam")

# Rhyme

The similarity of ending sounds existing in lines of poetry. Internal: rhyme within the line of poetry. End: rhyme at the end of a line of poetry.

# Assonance

the repetition of identical or similar vowel sounds, especially in stressed syllables

# Personification

providing human characteristics to a lifeless object.

("This poetry gets bored of being alone, it wants to go outdoors to chew on the winds." "Living Poetry" by Hugo Margenat)



# Extended Metaphor

Metaphor that is developed over several lines of writing or throughout the poem.

# Simile

figure of speech that  
expresses the  
comparison of two  
objects using like or as  
(as snug as a bug in a  
rug)

# Connotation/Denotation

Connotation: attitudes and feelings associated with a word. (thrifty vs. stingy)

Denotation: the dictionary definition of a word (literal meaning)

# Metaphor

figure of speech that  
expresses the  
comparison of two  
objects without using  
like or as

# Iambic Pentameter

A line of poetry that contains five iambs [unstressed and stressed].

“But soft! What light through yonder window breaks.

# Oxymoron

a combination of terms  
that appears to  
contradict one another.  
“jumbo shrimp; stupid  
genius; small crowd)

# Figurative Language

Strategies that authors use to use literary devices such as metaphors, simile, repetition, etc.

# Questions

- ▶ What is Epic? Give example .
- ▶ What do you mean by Oxymoron?
- ▶ Differentiate between simile and metaphor.
- ▶ Define the following terms, Assonance, Personification, Alliteration.



# Reference

- ▶ Glossary of Literary Terms by M.H. Abrams and G.G. Harpham