

Poetry Terms – Owens

Types of poems:

Haiku: 3 lines containing 5-7-5 syllables respectively.

Limerick: A limerick must be funny! A limerick must tell a story (although it will be quite short.) 5 lines, a rhyme scheme of aabba (end words of each line rhyming). A limerick has a specific rhythm.

Ballad: songlike narrative poem, usually has rhyme, rhythm, and a refrain (repeating lines) – can be sung or recited (In Spanish, called a corrido – El corrido de Gregorio Cortez)

Poem: verse written in stanzas, usually having a rhyme scheme (words at end of lines rhyme with line before) and rhythm, short lines.

Free verse or Prose poetry: poem that does not follow the exact guidelines of a poem – written in the same language as writing a short story.

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Narrative poem: poem that tells a story – may be in prose or poem form.

Dramatic poem: poem in which there is at least one speaker – speaking to audience or to specific character in poem

Sonnet: fourteen-line rhyming poem with set structure: 14 lines, usually ten-syllable rhyming lines, divided into two, three, or four sections. There are many rhyming patterns for sonnets, and they are usually written in iambic pentameter.

Poetic devices:

Stanza: lines grouped together to form a “paragraph” in a poem

Couplet: pair of rhyming lines (2 lines that rhyme)

Twinkle twinkle little star,
how I wonder what you are;

Quatrain: a stanza containing four lines

Rhyme: recurring (repeating) final word sounds that are identical or similar usually at the end of a line of verse, sometimes within the line

Students wander in a daze
Trying to find their class,
Feeling like it’s a maze
With a lot of razzamatazz.

Rhythm: the recurring or repeating pattern of strong and weak syllabic stresses

Meter: a fixed pattern of accented and unaccented syllables in lines with the same length to create rhythm
(The road is long / but I am strong)

Repetition: repeated sounds, words, or ideas for effect and emphasis (The tan man is sad.)