

## POETRY IS...

- Poetry is the attempt to express the ineffable—to reveal the subtle truths about the human experience using words when even words aren't sufficient.
- Poetry is a collection of literary tools i.e. metaphors, similes...; by the application of one's abstract mind for the purpose of motivating others to think abstractly.
- Poetry is a creative way to vent.
- Poetry is a way to express feelings, thoughts and emotions through words. Poetry is the human experience transcribed.
- Poetry is everything and anything
- Poetry is a view point
- Poetry is complex, it can be viewed differently by everyone, there is no set guideline when reading a poem.

## POEMS:

- Are divided into LINES and STANZAS
- Can have a regular rhythm/beat (METRE)
- Can have a regular rhyme patten (RHYME SCHEME)

## TYPES OF POEMS

- SONNET** A 14-line poem that follows a definite **rhyme scheme**. There are two types of sonnet: Italian (ABBA ABBA CDE CDE) and English/Shakespearean (ABAB CDCD EFEF GG). The first eight lines focus on an emotion, while the last six lines focus on a response to the feelings
- BALLAD** A poem meant to be sung, that tells a simple story (with a beginning, middle, and end). Ex. "Cremation of Sam McGee"
- ODE** A poem meant to celebrate a person, subject, or object – in an elevated and sincere style
- HAIKU** A traditional Japanese poem consisting of three lines and a 5 / 7 / 5 syllable pattern. The poem focuses on a brief moment in nature and does not rhyme.

## POETIC DEVICES

- SIMILE** A comparison using "like" or "as" (I twerked like rock star)
- METAPHOR** A comparison without like or as, interpreted by the reader (Life is a highway)
- PERSONIFICATION** Giving human qualities to a non-human object (The trees danced beautifully in the wind)
- ALLITERATION** Repeating the sound at the start of a word two or more times (People parked periodically)
- THEME** The central message, emotion, or idea within a piece of poetry (Similar to other forms of literature)

## **HOW TO ANALYZE A POEM:**

When reading a poem, consider the following six elements:

1. **Thought**

What is the overall idea or thought of the poem? What do you think it's about?

2. **Emotion**

What moods or feelings do you think the poet wants the reader to experience? In poetry, emotion is the main appeal.

3. **Form**

How does the poem appear on the page? Is it divided up in a meaningful way? Consider the lines, stanzas, and verse.

4. **Sound**

Does the poem have an appropriate sound? Does it rhyme or use poetic devices such as onomatopoeia, alliteration, or words that have an unpleasant sound to them?

5. **Imagery**

How does the poem use descriptive language to communicate an idea? For example, instead of saying "It was night," imagine a more imaginative, visual way of describing the same idea.

6. **Descriptive Language**

Are tools like similes, metaphors, or personification used to help readers understand the poem and its ideas?