

# Useful Poetic/Literary Vocabulary



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Alliteration: the repetition of consonant sounds usually at the beginning of each word, like rhyming for all the letters that aren't vowels

Allusion: reference to another specific work of literature or an event in history

Assonance: Like rhyming but not always exact, just the resemblance of vowel sounds words

Diction: choice of words

End stopped: when each line in a poem ends with some kind of punctuation

Enjambment: when a poet does not use punctuation of any kind at the ends of lines (or line-breaks), so the lines flow from one to the next.

Explication: a paper about a poem, describing its theme, typically only using the poem (and possibly other lit. that appeared as an allusion) for support

Form: a specific structure for a poem including: rhyme scheme, meter, line-breaks. For example sonnets, or haikus.

Meter: the rhythm of each line in a poem, and the poem as a whole, using stressed and unstressed syllables

Narrative: the telling of a story

Rhetoric: persuasive language

Rhyme Scheme: the order the rhymes appear in a poem at line-breaks

Stanza: An organizational block of text in a poem kind of like a paragraph in prose

Syntax: the way sentences are organized including word order and punctuation

Theme: purpose for writing the poem/story the "point" of the poem/story what the poem/story is indirectly commenting-on

Tone: attitude of the speaker to the subject of the poem

Voice: personality of the speaker

