



## Poetry Glossary

alliteration: repeated consonant sounds, especially at the beginning of words

*Example: "Around the rugged rock the ragged rascal ran."*

blank verse: unrhymed iambic pentameter

*Example: "Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,  
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,  
To the last syllable of recorded time".*

couplet: a pair of lines, usually rhymed

*Example: "I shall smile when wreaths of snow  
Blossom where the rose should grow."*

free verse: lines with no prescribed pattern or structure

*Example: "Be calm as water when the winds are gone  
And no one can tell whither.-my sweet friend!  
We two have had such happy hours together  
That my heart melts in me to think of it."*

hyperbole: exaggeration to emphasize something

*Example: My dad will kill me when he comes home.*

iambic pentameter: a line containing ten syllables with a pattern of an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable

*Example: "Arise fair sun and kill the envious moon."*





imagery: a descriptive word or phrase that reaches the senses of the reader, especially the sense of vision

*Example: "My heart is like an apple tree whose boughs are bent with thick-set fruit."*

irony: the opposite of what is expected

*Example: A person laughs at someone for slipping on a banana peel, and then they slip.*

metaphor: comparing two unlike things

*Example: "He was a winter wind."*

onomatopoeia: using words to imitate sounds

*Example: moo, crack*

oxymoron: two words that appear to contradict each other

*Example: bittersweet*

paradox: a situation or phrase that appears to contradict itself

*Example: "Someday you will be old enough to start reading fairy tales again."*

personification: giving human qualities to an object or idea

*Example: "Come, little leaves, said the wind one day."*

pun: a play on words, or using the double meaning of a word in a funny way

*Example: "They're called lessons... because they lessen from day to day."*





quatrain: a four-line stanza

*Example: "I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,  
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.  
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;  
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed."*

repetition: using repeated sounds, words, phrases or lines to emphasize something or create emotion. Alliteration is one type of repetition.

*Example: To the swinging and the ringing of the bells, bells, bells.*

rhyme: when the ending sounds of words are the same

*Example: "Every leaf speaks bliss to me,  
Fluttering from the autumn tree."*

simile: comparing two unlike things using like or as

*Example: "My heart is like a singing bird."*

stanza: a verse paragraph

*Example: "Hundreds of dewdrops to greet the dawn,  
Hundreds of bees in the purple clover,  
Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn,  
But only one mother the wide world over."*

symbol: an object that stands for something beyond itself

*Example: white = innocence, hope*

