

Literary Terms – Poetry#1

1. Poetry – a type of spoken or written expression which has emotion with words in a metrical (rhythm) form

A. Lyrical Poems - Poems which are written using a recipe or follow a pattern

B. Free Verse – Poems which follow no rules and have no rhythm or rhyme.

2. Terms associated with poems:

A. Stanza – (in prose, a paragraph) a group of lines arranged to a definite pattern. Look for the space between groups of lines.

B. Refrain – a line or group of lines (stanza) that is repeated at regular intervals.

C. Verse – a single line of poetry with a complete thought; a group would be a stanza; in prose we call them sentences.

D. Line – a group of words across the page but not necessarily a complete thought (or sentence).

1. End stopped – lines in poetry that end with punctuation forcing the reader to stop for breath.

2. Run-on – lines in poetry that do not have punctuation forcing the reader not to stop for breath.

E. Narrative Poem – one which tells a story; it has all the parts of a story such as characters, plot, conflict, etc.

F. Ballad Poem – one which is narrative, lyrical, has stanzas of four lines, and follows a simple rime scheme (abab), with a refrain. Most ballads tend to be of a sad nature and are folktales (passed down from generation to generation).