

Literary Terms – Poetry #2

1. Rhythm – Repeated patterns, stresses which occur at regular intervals. Count the syllables of the words within a line in order to determine the rhythm.

Sample poem:

She brisk ly walks in Jan u a ry's rain, ____
which drums the end less rhy thm of her pain, ____
pull ing clos er round her shoul der in the down pour ____
the leath er jack et he so of ten wore. ____

- A. Meter – The recurrence of a pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables.

Iambic – (~ , ') pop, bang

Trochaic – bang, pop

2. Rhyme (rime) – words sound identical or very similar and appear in parallel positions in two or more lines.

- A. End Rhyme – when the rhyme pattern occurs at the end of lines.

- B. Internal Rhyme – when the rhyme pattern occurs in the middle of lines.

- C. Perfect Rhyme – when the sounds in rhymes are exact sounding.

- D. Eye Rhyme – when the spelling of the words would appear to sound the same but don't.

Example: bow, bough, cough

E. Slant Rhyme – consonant sounds are the same but the vowels are different.

Example: moved and loved

3. Rhyme Scheme – The sequence in which the rhyme occurs. The first end sound is represented as the letter “a,” and the second “b,” etc.

Sample poem:

Whose woods these are I think I know. a (always begin with the letter a)
His house is in the village though; _____
He will not see me stopping here _____
To watch his woods fill up with snow. _____

My little horse must think it queer _____
To stop without a farmhouse near _____
Between the woods and frozen lake _____
The darkest evening of the year. _____

He gives his harness bells a shake _____
To ask if there is some mistake. _____
The only other sound’s the sweep _____
Of easy wind and downy flake. _____

4. Lyric Poem – A poem which has song-like qualities...flows together with a melody.

A. Euphony – soft sounding words “billowy, blowing breeze”

B. Cacophony – harsh sounding words “crash, war, stinks.”