

# Vocabulary - Poetry

## Alliteration

Alliteration is the repetition of the same or similar consonant sounds in words that are close to one another. The repeated consonant appears at the beginning of the word. For example, 'Fine feathered friends.'

---

## End-stop

An end-stopped line is a poetic device in which a pause comes at the end of a sentence or phrase on a single line. This pause can be expressed in writing as a punctuation mark, such as a full stop, colon or semi-colon.

---

## Enjambment

Enjambment is the continuation of a sentence or phrase across a line break in a poem, moving from one line to the next without using a punctuation mark. Enjambment often ends a line in the middle of a phrase, allowing it to continue onto the next line. Enjambment can be used to affect the pace, rhythm, sound, appearance and meaning of poetry, and can be used to emphasise or introduce a pause or a silence.

---

## Figurative language

Words or phrases used in a way that differs from the expected or everyday usage. They are used in a nonliteral way for particular effect (e.g. simile, metaphor, personification).

---

## Imagery

Imagery is language used to create images in the mind of the reader. Imagery includes figurative and metaphorical language which is intended to heighten the reader's experience by appealing to their senses.

---

## Lineation

Lineation refers to the way poems are arranged and broken into lines (rather than sentences, like prose). Lineation is a tool that poets use to emphasise, change, or challenge meanings in their poems.

---

## Metalanguage

The language used to describe and talk about language.

---

## Metaphor

A metaphor is a comparison that shows how two things that are not alike in most ways are similar in one important way. It is based on a non-literal meaning. For example, when a person understands an idea, a metaphor might be 'she saw the light'; when a person is angry, 'she was hot under the collar'. Metaphors are usually culturally specific.

---

## Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeic words are words that when pronounced sound similar to the actual sounds they describe. Example: clickety-clack, sizzle, buzz.

---

## Prose

Prose is non-verse writing. Almost anything other than poetry counts as prose: books, this list of words, a newspaper article, a textbook, the Australian Constitution. The basic defining feature of prose is its lack of line breaks: that is, you only start a new line when you get to the end of another.

---

## Repetition

Repetition is the repeating of a word or phrase. It is a common rhetorical device used to add emphasis and stress in writing and speech. Aside from helping stress or highlight important thoughts and points, repetition can be a key tool for authors and speakers in developing style, tone, and rhythm.

---

## Simile

A simile is a figure of speech in which two basically different things are compared using 'like' or 'as.' Example: My love is like a red, red rose. It is as cold as ice.

---

## Stanza

A stanza is a dividing and organizing technique which places a group of lines in a poem together, separated from other groups of lines by line spacing or indentation. Stanzas are to poetry what paragraphs are to prose.