

POETIC TERMS –Ms. Ashley

Alliteration: repetition of an initial consonant sound E.g.: “beaded bubbles” (think tongue twister)

Allusion: an indirect reference to a famous person, place or thing, usually from the Bible, history, other literature, or mythology. (someone/something you assume people know about already) ie. He was a modern day Hercules

Analogy: a comparison between two things in which the more complex is explained in terms of the more simple i.e. comparing a year-long profile of the stock index to a roller-coaster ride.

Assonance: repetition of a vowel sound ie. We need to be free

Cliché: A trite or overused expression or idea ie. Don’t judge a book by its cover

Colloquial: the casual diction of informal speech and writing- like slang; words and phrases used in everyday speech but avoided in formal writing –ie. That movie was sick, yo.

Consonance: repetition of consonant sounds in the middle or at the ends of sets of words ie. What a lucky duck

Euphemism: “fine speech” or verbal device used to avoid an unpleasant concept or expression (the use of a word or phrase that is less direct, but that is also less distasteful or less offensive than another)Ie. Instead of saying someone died a person might say they passed away

Extended metaphor: a metaphor developed at length and in detail, typically over an entire poem, stanza or paragraph- ie comparing a rose to love-there are several ways they are similar

Hyperbole or Overstatement: a figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect. E.g.: “I’m so hungry I could eat a horse.”

Image: a sensory experience rendered in language and appeals to the 5 senses. According to the sense, an image is visual, auditory, tactile (touch), gustatory (taste), or olfactory (smell).

Imagery: The collective function of the images in a work, or an author’s use of images, is imagery.

Internal Rhyme: rhyme within a line in a poem. E.g.: “I bring fresh showers for the thirsting flowers”

Inverted syntax: reversing the normal word order of a sentence ie. Do the homework, I must instead of I must do the homework

Irony: a twist of expectations. A difficult term to define, irony can refer to a manner of expression or a quality in the thing perceived. In both cases, irony involves the perception of discrepancy, usually between apparent and real significance. It is an indirect way of communicating an attitude. Irony can vary in tone, from humorous to bitter. Ie. Meeting the person of your dreams and then waking up

Metaphor: a figure of speech in which a thing is described as something else not using the words like or as. Ie. My heart was torn in two- the heart is being compared to something that can be ripped like paper

Onomatopoeia: the use of sound to suggest the qualities of the thing described. Poets use meter, vowel sounds, and consonant sounds to suggest sound, time, movement, effort, texture or tone ie. The bees buzzed happily

Oxymoron: a rhetorical device in which contradictory terms (usually an adjective and a noun) are combined. E.g.: “Beautiful monster, tiny giant (Figure of flat contradiction-opposites)

Personification: using human characteristics to describe something that is not human. A figure of speech in which something abstract or internal (e.g., time, love) is represented as a person. Ie. The car grunted and groaned as it went down the street

Pun: a play on words. The terms wordplay and ambiguity are also used; ambiguity may refer more to phrasing than words. The words meaning can be taken in more than one way...ie That actor is so hot (hot could be talking about looks or their temperature)

Refrain: the line or lines that are repeated in music or in verse; the "chorus" of a song.

Rhyme: : identical or similar sounds, usually at the end of a line of poetry.

Rhyme scheme: the order in which rhymed words recur. In a stanza of four lines, the possible rhyme schemes include abab, abcb, and abba.

Simile: a comparison using an explicit connective such as like or as ie. The ice was like glass

Slant or half rhyme: rhyme in which final sounds are similar but not identical. The opposite of exact or true rhyme. Also called near or half rhyme ie.. slim and ham

Stanza: a group of lines whose pattern (number, meter, rhyme) recurs throughout a poem.

Symbol; symbolism: a thing that suggests more than its literal meaning. (something used to represent something else) Can be a thing or an action. Symbolism is the collective function of symbols in a work, or an author’s use of symbols. Ie. The colour blue can symbolize sadness.

Poet terms sheet assignment- Find/create one example of each of the following terms-

1.alliteration, 2.allusion, 3.analogy, 4.assonance, 5.cliche, 6.colloquial,
7.consonance, 8.euphemism, 9.hyperbole, 10. internal rhyme, 11.inverted syntax,
12.irony, 13.metaphor, 14.onomatopoeia, 15.oxymoron, 16.parody,
17.personification, 18.pun, 19.simile, 20.slant rhyme, 21.symbol