

Name: _____

Class: _____

Poetry

Day 1

Elements of Poetry

Define the Following Terms

Types of Poetry

Narrative Poetry _____

Dramatic Poetry _____

Lyric Poetry _____

Sound Devices

Meter _____

Rhyme _____

Consonance _____

Assonance _____

Images _____

Figurative Language _____

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In the space below write a poem in at least 3 lines using at least 2 sound devices and one image (circle your choices in the list above). Identify if your poem is narrative, dramatic or lyric.

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COMMON CORE ■ EXTENDED STUDY: POETRY

IF I FEEL PHYSICALLY AS IF THE
TOP OF MY HEAD WERE TAKEN
OFF, I KNOW THAT IS POETRY.

— EMILY DICKINSON

Defining Poetry

Along with prose and drama, poetry is one of the three major genres, or forms, of literature. Poets usually employ highly charged language and arrange words in lines that form stanzas.

Types of Poetry Most poems fall into one of three categories:

- **Narrative poetry** tells a story and has the same literary elements as works of prose fiction. *Ballads* and *epics* are two types of narrative poem.
- **Dramatic poetry** uses the techniques of drama to present the speech of one or more characters in verse form.
- **Lyric poetry** expresses the thoughts and feelings of a single speaker.

Sound Devices Poets use the innate musical qualities of words to create patterns that emphasize meaning. **Meter**, the regular pattern of beats in a line, is one aspect of poetic sound. Other sound devices are

- **rhyme**, the repetition of sounds at the ends of words (*leaf* and *brief*);
- **consonance**, the repetition of final consonant sounds (*speak* and *break*);
- **assonance**, repetition of similar vowel sounds (*shade and ray*).

Alliteration, another sound device, is defined in the chart below.

Images and Figurative Language Images are words and phrases that appeal to the senses. Figurative language is language used imaginatively rather than literally. These, too, are hallmarks of poetry.

Close Read: Poetic Elements

These poetic elements appear in the Model text at right.

Alliteration: repetition of initial identical consonant sounds in accented syllables

Example: "What saint strained so much . . . ?"
(Theodore Roethke)

Simile and Metaphor: figures of speech that compare two apparently unlike things. Similes use a connecting word (*like* or *as*); metaphors do not.

Simile: "The child's first step, / as awesome as an earthquake." (Anne Sexton)

Metaphor: "...the fiery night that's in your eyes..."
(Edward Arlington Robinson)

Imagery: language that appeals to the senses, creating word pictures that help to express meaning

Example: "a red wheelbarrow / glazed with rain water" (William Carlos Williams)

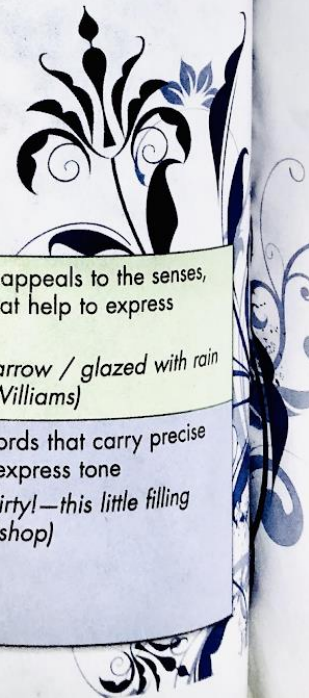
Precise Word Choice: words that carry precise shades of meaning and express tone

Example: "Oh, but it is dirty!—this little filling station . . ." (Elizabeth Bishop)

In This Section

- Defining Poetry (p. 402)
- Model: "Man Listening to Disc" (p. 403)
- Study: Emily Dickinson's Poetry (p. 406)
- Study: Walt Whitman's Poetry (p. 426)

For more practice analyzing poetry, see numerous pages throughout this textbook, including 82, 125, 256, 312, 428, 636, 643, 708, 722, 874, 902, 1064, 1072, and 1366.



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 EXEMPLAR TEXT

Model

About the Text Billy Collins (born 1941) has written many poems about other art forms. This poem celebrates the musical qualities and artistry of jazz.

“Man Listening to Disc” by Billy Collins

This is not bad—
 ambling along 44th Street
 with Sonny Rollins for company,
 his music flowing through the soft calipers
 of these earphones,
 as if he were right beside me
 on this clear day in March,
 the pavement sparkling with sunlight,
 pigeons fluttering off the curb,
 nodding over a profusion of bread crumbs.

In fact, I would say
 my delight at being suffused
 with phrases from his saxophone—
 some like honey, some like vinegar—
 is surpassed only by my gratitude

to Tommy Potter for taking the time
 to join us on this breezy afternoon
 with his most unwieldy bass
 and to the esteemed Arthur Taylor
 who is somehow managing to navigate

this crowd with his cumbersome drums.
 And I bow deeply to Thelonious Monk
 for figuring out a way
 to motorize—or whatever—his huge piano
 so he could be with us today.

This music is loud yet so confidential
 I cannot help feeling even more
 like the center of the universe
 than usual as I walk along to a rapid
 little version of “The Way You Look Tonight,”

and all I can say to my fellow pedestrians,
 to the woman in the white sweater,
 the man in the tan raincoat and the heavy glasses,
 who mistake themselves for the center of the universe—
 all I can say is watch your step,

because the five of us, instruments and all,
 are about to angle over
 to the south side of the street
 and then, in our own tightly knit way,
 turn the corner at Sixth Avenue.

And if any of you are curious
 about where this aggregation,
 this whole battery-powered crew,
 is headed, let us just say
 that the real center of the universe,

the only true point of view,
 is full of the hope that he,
 the hub of the cosmos
 with his hair blown sideways,
 will eventually make it all the way downtown.

Alliteration Repetition of initial consonant p sounds mimics the popping rhythms of a jazz riff.

Simile The comparisons suggest the changing textures of the sound from sweet and flowing to sharp and jagged.

Imagery Word pictures appeal to the sense of sight. The speaker’s head is filled with music, but he sees the world and its people clearly.

Precise Word Choice Precise word choices suggest the speaker’s physical movement as he walks, the reality of his listening on a portable CD-player, and the virtuoso precision of the musicians.