**Poetry Cheat Sheet**

**Alliteration**

Def: Several words that start with the same sound very close to each other in a sentence.

Why used: It makes a kind of rhythm or smoothness; it sounds cool. Also it helps the reader to visualize.

Ex: Sunlight only slants through the slats in long strips of light…

**Onomatopoeia**

Def: The word sounds like the sound it stands for.

Why used: To make the writing more authentic and help readers to “**hear.**”

Ex: I knew my backpack’s zipper had hit the metal shelf because of the “biiiiiiiiiing” that reverberated through the dark, empty room. I froze listening for the clomp of his boots, but all I heard were the buzzings and clickings from the various insect and bird life outside the open windows. I soldiered on slowly sliding my shoes onward, careful not to make rubber sole screech noises or the man would surely find me.

**Metaphor**

Def: Comparing two *unlike* things WITHOUT using “like” or “as” to make the comparison.

Why used: To help reader visualize, and to make the visualizing more specific and interesting.

Ex: A boy is a small boat of wood: his oars are his hands

**Simile**

Def: Comparing two *unlike* things using “like” or “as” to make the comparison.

Why used: To help reader visualize, and to make the visualizing more specific and interesting.

Ex: as high as an elephant’s eye

**Personification**

Def: Giving inanimate objects (things that aren’t alive) or animals the qualities of being human.

Why used: To help reader visualize, and to make the visualizing more specific. Plus it’s interesting and creative.

Ex: The flowers danced in the wind while the trees beat time with the branches. The animals sang to the music.

Ex. Fog comes on little cat feet. It sits looking over the harbor…”

**Repetition**

Def: Repetition (repeating) of a word or line for effect

Why used: To give rhythm. Possibly to bring reader back to a main point.

Ex: “Not at all!” said the broken-legg’d man.

<http://www2.nkfust.edu.tw/~emchen/CLit/Broken-legged_Man.htm>

**Imagery**

Def: Author uses words to help you visualize

Why used: To paint a picture in the reader’s mind

Ex: so much depends upon a wheel barrow glazed with rain water beside the white chickens

**Narrative**

Def: a story. A narrative poem is a poem that tells a story, complete with characters, setting, conflict, climax, etc.

Why used: to tell a story with beauty and imagery

Ex: Broken-legg’d Man – the story is this: a boy went to the store and saw a man with a broken leg.

<http://www2.nkfust.edu.tw/~emchen/CLit/Broken-legged_Man.htm>

**Rhythm**

Def: a pattern of syllables made in the lines of a poem

Why used: to give it a beat

Ex: My Papa’s Waltz has a 676767676767 pattern of syllables

Ex: rap music

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43330/my-papas-waltz>; he has four stanzas with four lines each.

**Hyperbole:**

Def: exaggeration

Why used: to show emotion (frustration), to be funny, for emphasis

Ex: "Well now, one winter it was so cold that all the geese flew backward and all the fish moved south and even the snow turned blue. Late at night, it got so frigid that all spoken words froze solid afore they could be heard. People had to wait until sunup to find out what folks were talking about the night before."

Ex: "It's a slow burg-I spent a couple of weeks there one day."

<https://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-hyperbole-in-literature.html>

**Rhyme**

Def: a pattern, where usually at the end of each line, the words have the same sounding last syllable.

A rhyme is a [repetition](https://literarydevices.net/repetition/) of similar sounding words, occurring at the end of lines in poems or songs

Why used: to make the poem sound musical, because it sounds COOL, symmetry, and differentiates the poem from prose

Ex:

Once upon a midnight dreary,

while I pondered, weak and weary,

Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore,

Ex: The road goes ever on and on,

Down from the door where it began.

Now far ahead the road as gone

And I must follow if I can.

*(J.R.R. Tolkien –*The Lord of the Rings*)*

Ex: Maybe I’m lost in the grind, haunted by all I desire

Forcibly caused to be normal, bonded and tossed in the fire.

*(El-P –*Oh Hail No*)*

Types of Rhyme: <https://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-rhyme.html>

Rhyming dictionary: <https://www.rhymer.com/>, <https://www.rhymezone.com/>

A line is like a sentence in a poem, and a group of lines lines make up a stanza. Look at the Broken Legged Man; there are five lines in each stanza. <http://www2.nkfust.edu.tw/~emchen/CLit/Broken-legged_Man.htm>

A stanza is like a paragraph; it’s a bunch of lines together. Look back at the Broken Legged Man and see that there are five stanzas with five lines in each. <http://www2.nkfust.edu.tw/~emchen/CLit/Broken-legged_Man.htm>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43330/my-papas-waltz>; he has four stanzas with four lines each.