

ENG 1121C: List of Poetic Terms

Allusion: Metaphor making direct comparison to a historical or literary event or character.

“Ball of string to lead you out” –Lorna Crozier, *Packing for the Future: Instructions*

Anaphora: Initial repetition of a word or phrase.

“There may be water

There may be stones” –Lorna Crozier, *Packing for the Future: Instructions*

Enjambment: Continuation of sentence over one line, or stanza and into the next.

“There may be signs that warn you

to be gone. Take the dream” –Lorna Crozier, *Packing for the Future: Instructions*

End Stopped: Line of poetry that concludes with the end of sentence.

“Nevermore!” –Edgar Allan Poe, *The Raven*

Neologism: New words.

“Manunkind” –E. E. Cummings, *Pity this Busy Monster, Manunkind*

Hyperbole: Overstatement, Comparison using conscious exaggeration.

“And I will love thee still, my dear,

Till all the seas gang dry.” –Robert Burns, *A Red, Red Rose*

Personification: Giving human Characteristics to non-human things or to abstractions.

“Thou still unravished bride of quietness” –John Keats, *Ode on a Grecian Urn*

Paradox: Apparent contradiction or illogical statement.

“this is the beauty

of strength broken by strength

and still strong” –AJM Smith, *The Dial*

Oxymoron: Short paradox, Consisting of adjective + noun with conflicting meaning.

“Everything is

normal, absurdly normal.” –George Elliott Clarke, *Casualties*

Synesthesia: Conscious mixing of 2 different types of sensory experience.

“With blue – uncertain stumbling buzz –“ –Emily Dickinson, *I Heard a Fly Buzz – When I Died*

persona: An assumed character or role, especially one adopted by an author in his or her writing, or by a performer. Also: a dramatic or literary character

sound poetry

confessional poetry: When the content of the poem speaks to the author's life, and has no rhyme pattern or poetic form. **Ex.** Dulce est Decorum Est Wilfred Owen

spoken word: Performance based poetry that focuses on the aesthetics of word play and storytelling. Experiments with other art forms such as music, theater and dance.

lyric: short poems that expresses an individual speaker's feelings or thoughts, often musical Sonnets, the ode, the hymn etc.

"Shall I compare thee to a summer's day" – William Shakespeare, *Sonnet 18*

slam: spoken word" or "performance" poetry that is presented in competitions "slams: and judged by the audience

diction: word use, language choice

- "you do not do, you do not do" "Achoo" – Plath, *Daddy* certain words to represent the child like actions of the speaker.
- Neologism – New words "pity this busy monster manunkind" – Cummings, *Pity this busy monster, manunkind*

imagery: The formation of mental images, figures, or likenesses of things, or of such images collectively – the way the reader conveys the picture of what they are saying in our minds

- "the eyes around – had rung them dry – and breaths were gathering firm" – Dickinson, *I heard a fly buzz*

imagism: a movement in poetry, aiming at clarity of expression through the use of precise visual images

- "an uproar, a spruce green sky, bound in iron" – Avison, *The Butterfly*

onomatopoeia: The formation of a word from a sound associated with the thing or action being named; the formation of words imitative of sounds. – The formation of a word by imitation of a sound made by or associated with its referent – "a sound"

"I heard a fly Buzz" – Dickinson, *I heard a fly buzz--when I died*

metaphor: When something is compared to another object which

- Thomas, "Do not go gentle into that goodnight." *Do not go gentle into that goodnight*

simile

conceit: a cliché comparison traditionally relating to love or a women's beauty

- "My Mistress' eyes are nothing like the Sun." - Shakespeare, *Sonnet 130*

allusion: a metaphor making a comparison to a historical or literary event or character

- "Ball of string to lead you out" –Lorna Crozier, *Packing for the Future: Instructions*
- " And I saw you Walt Whitman" - Ginsberg, *A supermarket in California*

alliteration: Use of similar sounds.

- “While I nodded nearly napping.” Edgar Allen Poe, The Raven

assonance: the repetition of vowel sounds “Mystery and Mastery”

consonance: the repetition of continece “Sweet silent thought” - s and t sounds.

masculine rhyme: When only one syllable is rhyming.

feminine rhyme: When two or more syllables rhyme.

slant rhyme: Also known as a half rhyme – two words that only have their final consonant sound and no proceeding vowel sounds in common (close to rhyming).

end rhyme: When the end of the lines in a poem rhyme.

internal rhyme: When there is a rhyme within the middle of a line which can recur throughout the poem

rhyme scheme: A rhyming pattern found at the end of the lines of poetry, such as [abba] found in the first two quatrains of a Shakespearean Sonnet. This is different from end rhyme as it has a discernible pattern which identifies with a poetic form.

prose poem: Tells a short story instead of using verses, but preserves poetic qualities such as heightened imagery, parataxis and emotional effects.

metre: basic rhythmic structure of a verse or lines in verse

accentual-syllabic verse: -----

syllabic verse: a poetic form having a fixed or constrained number of syllables per line, while stress, quantity, or tone play a distinctly secondary role

Types of Metrical Feet:

breve ˘ marks an unstressed syllable

ictus / marks a stressed syllable

pyrrhic: ˘˘ two unstressed syllables

spondee: // Stressed, stressed

iamb - / Unstressed, stressed

trochee: / - Stressed, unstressed

dactyl: / - - Stressed, unstressed, unstressed

anapest - - / Unstressed, unstressed, stressed

metrical substitution: When a metrical pattern is interrupted by the introduction of a new type of foot; ex. An iambic pentameter being interrupted by a trochaic would be an iambic pentameter with a trochaic substitution.

trimeter / tetrameter / pentameter / hexameter / heptameter / octameter

caesura: Break within a poetic foot, or a break in a line of poetry, represented with punctuation

end-stopped lines: When a natural pause occurs at the end of a line, usually brought on by punctuation, which signifies the end of one idea and the transition to another.

enjambement lines: incomplete syntax at the end of a line; the meaning runs-over from one poetic line to the next, without terminal punctuation. Lines without enjambement are end-stopped.

- “There may be signs that warn you/to be gone. Take the dream” –Lorna Crozier, *Packing for the Future: Instructions*
- Lane, *Because I Never Learned*, “I lived in was hard with dead/Animals and men I didn’t question/My father when he told me”

free verse: Free verse is an open form of poetry. It does not use consistent meter patterns, rhyme, or any other musical pattern. It thus tends to follow the rhythm of natural speech.

concrete poetry: Concrete or shape poetry is poetry in which the typographical arrangement of words is as important in conveying the intended effect as the conventional elements of the poem, such as meaning of words, rhythm, rhyme and so on. Ex. The work of Ellen Hopkins,

stanza: an arrangement of a certain number of lines, usually four or more, sometimes having a fixed length, meter, or rhyme scheme, forming a division of a poem.

couplet: a pair of lines of metre in poetry. Couplets usually comprise two lines that rhyme and have the same metre. A couplet may be formal (closed) or run-on (open). In a formal (or closed) couplet, each of the two lines is end-stopped, implying that there is a grammatical pause at the end of a line of verse.

quatrain: Four lines verses.

sonnet: A poem form where the work has 14 lines and traditionally 10 syllables per line.

Italian / Petrarchan sonnet: defined by having a rhyme scheme which consists of: 1 octave (abba, abba) followed by a sestet (cdcdcd or cdecde). All sonnets have 14 lines.

English / Shakespearean sonnet: Defined by having a rhyme scheme which consists of: 3 quatrains (abab, cdcd, efef), ending with a rhyming couplet (gg). Every sonnet has 14 lines.