

Poetry Terminology

- **Alliteration:** Repetition of a sound at the beginning of words placed close to one another.
“And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea.”
- **Allusion:** Reference to a well-known historical person, place, event, literary work or work of art.
“He lies so much! I am surprised that his nose has not grown like Pinocchio's.”
- **Assonance:** Repetition of a vowel sound in words placed close to one another.
“Add spice to the white rice.”
- **Consonance:** Repetition of a consonant sound in words placed close to one another.
“He struck a struck of bad lucku.”
- **Hyperbole:** An extreme exaggeration or overstatement.
“I have told you a million times to wear your jacket!”
- **Imagery:** Words that evoke any of the five senses - sight, hearing, smell, taste, or touch.
“The girl ran her hands on a warm and soft satin fabric.”
- **Metaphor:** Compares one thing to another directly without using the words ‘like’ or ‘as’.
“O, my love is a red, red rose.”
- **Onomatopoeia:** Words that imitate sounds made by a person, an animal, or a thing.
“The car hissed past us on the wet street.”
- **Oxymoron:** When opposite or contradictory words are placed next to each other.
“He is an honourable villain.”
- **Personification:** Takes something that is not human and gives it human feelings or attributes.
“The crops begged for water but the drought continued.”
- **Simile:** Compares one thing to another using ‘like’ or ‘as’.
“The Red River loops through the valley like a snake.”