**Reading Texts**

**Mrs Guerfi**

**Poetry writing**

1. **What is poetry**

Poetry is a type of literature that uses the sounds, rhythms, and meanings of words to describe the world in striking imaginative ways.

**2. What are the basic elements of poetry?**

The **basic** **elements of poetry** are important prerequisites to understanding poetry. These elements include:

* **Meter**: Meter is the rhythmic structure within a poem and is dictated by the number of syllables and the pattern in which these syllables are emphasized.
* **Rhyme**: Rhyme is created when the last one or more syllables within separate words match. A poem is considered to rhyme when the last words of the lines within the verse share this relationship.
* **Scheme**: A scheme refers to the rhyming pattern within a verse of poetry. The scheme could contain words that rhyme at each of every line throughout the stanza, or alternating lines, or in couplets. We often signify the rhyme scheme using an arrangement of letters.
* **Verse**: The verse of the poem is a way to describe the relationship between rhyme and meter in a poem.
* **Stanza**: A stanza is a group of lines within the verse of a poem. They often follow a similar pattern or meter or contain a similar idea, but not always. They are separated from other stanzas within the poem through the use of a break or a blank line..
* **Irony:** the use of opposite meanings to intensify the impression of something.
* **Imagery:** The words themselves are not necessarily the most important aspect of poetry. The words invite you see, hear, feel, smell, or taste the details of life in an unusual or unexpected way
* **Symbolism:** allows you to attach ideas to things. In the example below, the author appears to be using both a storm and a flower as symbols for life. Life can be seen both ways, and the poem is clearly not just about storms or flowers.
* **Simile and Metaphor:** These two literary devices are almost the same. A simile shows one thing as “similar” to something else. A simile usually involves the word “like” or “as.” A metaphor presents one thing as though it is something else.

**3.How Is Formal Verse Different from Free Verse in Poetry?**

There are two broad approaches of poetry: formal verse and free verse.

**a.Formal verse.**

Formal verse is poetry that follows a strict repeating pattern, like [sonnets](https://masterclass.com/articles/poetry-101-what-is-a-sonnet-sonnet-definition-with-examples-plus-write-your-own-sonnet" \t "_blank) or limericks. Stanzas in formal verse will have a matching meter and rhyme scheme. Robert Frost was an advocate for structure in poetry, and famously said that poetry in free verse was like playing tennis without a net. William Shakespeare’s sonnets are a classic example of how stanzas are used in formal verse.

**b. Free verse**

In free verse, poetry does not follow a strict rhyme or meter. Stanzas of different types can be used within a poem. Walt Whitman was the pioneer of free verse, using different kinds of stanzas of varying line lengths.

1. **Poetry Reading**

Here’s one way you can approach reading poetry:

1. Read the entire poem for general clarity. Approach every poem with an open mind and view it as a new experience.
2. Once you achieve a general impression, you can begin to analyse the poem.
3. Contemplate the poems title. Try and make connections between the title of a poem, its content, and the setting or situation it suggests.

b. Look for sensory images, different patterns, usage of literary devices and rhythm and meter.

(3) The “meaning” of poem is not necessarily the most important element. Explore the experience that the words create. If you do notice one possible interpretation of the poem, don’t stop there. There may be other possible interpretations that arise from your experience of the words and images. The author is often more interested in the experience behind the interpretations than in the various interpretations themselves.