

American Literature and Composition

Poetry Terms

SOUND DEVICES

FORM/STRUCTURE

TERM	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE FROM POEM
ALLITERATION		
ASSONANCE		
ALLUSION		
CAESURA		
END RHYME		
INTERNAL RHYME		
EXACT RHYME		
SLANT RHYME		
CACOPHONY		
FREE VERSE		
STANZA		
REFRAIN		
END-STOPPED LINE		
ENJAMBMENT		
SATIRE		

STYLE

TERM	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE FROM POEM
TONE		
EXTENDED METAPHOR		
CONNOTATION		
SYNTAX		
SPEAKER/POINT OF VIEW		

POEMS TO USE: Each of the following poems must appear at least once in the “Examples” column of the chart above. All poems can be found in your textbook.

“The Unknown Citizen” by W. H. Auden (p. 963)

“The Fish” (p. 1035-1036)

“The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner” by Randall Jarrell (p. 933)

“The Beautiful Changes” by Richard Wilbur (p. 1006)

“Mushrooms” by Sylvia Plath (p. 1149)

“Night Journey” by Theodore Roethke (Online)

You should already be familiar with the following literary terms, but they are worthy of note when discussing poetry. Be sure to define any with which you are unfamiliar.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

IMAGERY

SYMBOL

METAPHOR

SIMILE

IRONY

DICTION

ALLUSION

PERSONIFICATION

REPETITION