

POETRY 101



THE **ART**GALLERY
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

WHAT IS POETRY?



- Poetry is “an imaginative awareness of experience expressed through meaning, sound, and rhythmic language choices so as to evoke an emotional response”.
- It has been known to use rhythm and meter, but this is by no means necessary.
- The art form has gone through countless reinventions over time.

How would you define poetry?

Poetic Devices: *The Simile & Metaphor*

Simile

- A figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another of a different kind, making the description more vivid.
- Similes are usually in a phrase that begins with “as” or “like”

She is like the sun.

Metaphor

- The term or phrase is applied to something that cannot be literally applicable in order to suggest an unlikely resemblance.
- Metaphors suggest a direct comparison, without using “like” or “as”

The snow is a white blanket.

Poetic Devices: *Hyperbole, Alliteration & Onomatopoeia*

Hyperbole

- An extreme exaggeration used to make a point

I've told you this a million times.

I was so hungry I could eat a rhino!

Onomatopoeia

- A word that imitates a natural sound

"Splash!" "Roar!"

Water plops into the pond.

Alliteration

- Two or more words that start with the same sound or letter.

She sells seashells by the seashore

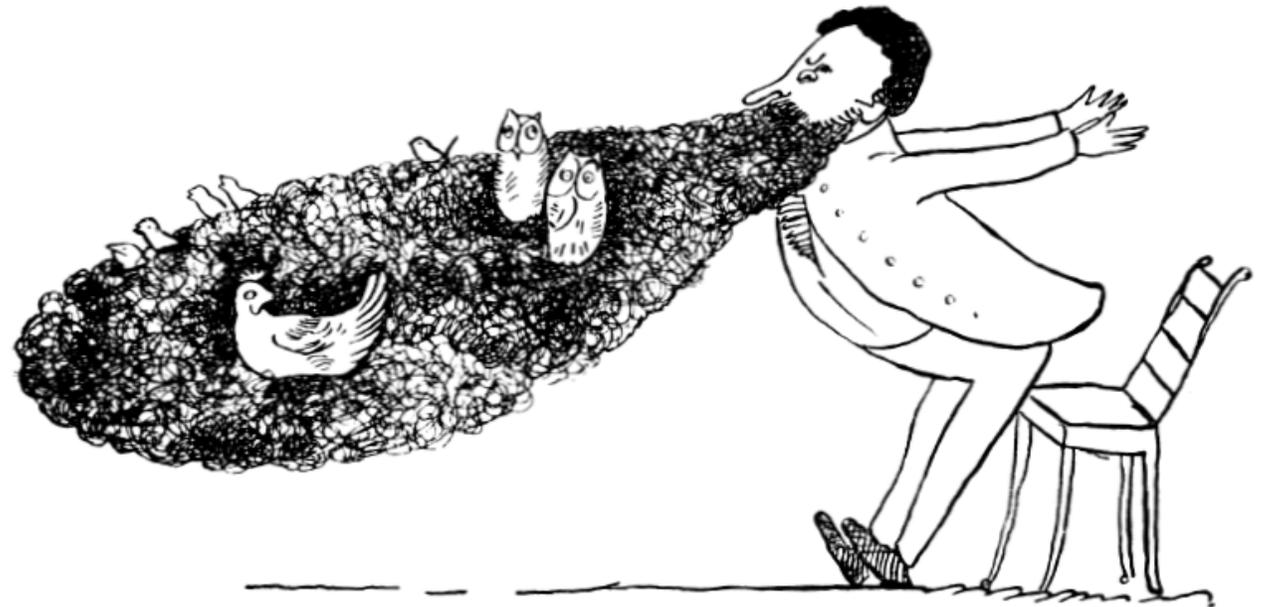
Wind whipping wildly

Poetic Form: Limerick

- Popular form in children's verse, and is often comical, or nonsensical.
- Limerick's were made famous by Edward Lear, who published "Book of Nonsense" in the 1800s, entirely filled with silly limericks.
- The form is five lines in length, and follows a strict rhyme scheme with a bouncy rhythm.
- Most commonly seen in the 18th century *Mother Goose's Melodies*
- The first, second and fifth lines must have 7-10 syllables, while rhyming with the same verbal rhythm.
- The third and fourth lines only need 5-7 syllables, with the same rhythm and rhyme scheme.

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A BOOK OF NONSENSE.



There was an Old Man with a beard,
Who said, "It is just as I feared! —
Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a Wren,
Have all built their nests in my beard."

Poetic Form: Haiku

- Traditional form of Japanese poetry
- The form consists of 3 lines, and rarely rhymes.
- The first and last lines have 5 syllables, and the middle line has 7 syllables.
- Usually use sensory language to capture a feeling or image



Poetic Form: Ballad

- Began in the European folk tradition, in many cases accompanied by musical instruments. Most ballads are narrative, and rely heavily on imagery rather than description.
- Repetition is a common feature of the ballad
- It was often used by composers and poets in the 18th century and progressed to lyrical ballads.
- After the 19th century, the term took on a new meaning of a slower form of a popular love song
- Composed in short stanzas, and is a form of **free verse**.

YANKEE DOODLE TRADITIONAL



Yan - kee Doo - dle went to town, a - rid - ing on a pon - y.
2 Stuck a feath - er in his cap and called it "Mac - a - ron - i".
4 Yan - kee Doo - dle keep it up, Yan - kee Doo - dle Dan - dy.
6 Mind the mu - sic and the step and with the girls be han - dy.

Poetic Form: *Sonnet*

- A form of expressive thought or idea made up of 14 lines, each 10 syllables in length. From the Italian “sonetto”, meaning “a little sound or song”
- Basic meter is called iambic pentameter
- Rhymes are arranged according to one of two schemes: Italian, or English.
- Italian sonnets consist of eight lines(**octaves**) followed by the answering sestet(final six lines). The Italian sonnet usually presents an argument or question with an answer.
- English sonnets have three quatrains and are always followed by a rhyming **couplet**(two lines of verse that usually have the same meter and are joined by rhyme). The couplet usually concludes the previous three stanzas.
- Italian sonnet rhyme scheme: abba abba cdecde
- English sonnet rhyme scheme: ab ab cdcd, efef, gg

Shall I compare Thee to a Summer's Day

Sonnet 18
by William Shakespeare

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate.
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date.
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimmed;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance, or nature's changing course untrimmed.
But thy eternal summer shall not fade
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;
Nor shall death brag thou wand'rest in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st,
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

Poetic Form: *Free Verse*

- Completely open form of poetry.
- No consistent meter or rhyme. The form tends to follow the rhythm of natural speech.
- Free verse has no set of rules to follow, and is based on natural rhythmic phrases that has normal pauses.

