Poetry Vocabulary List

**Alliteration:** The repetition of initial consonant sounds in neighboring words.

**Ballad:**  Narrative poem (tells a story) in quatrains

**Free Verse:** Poetry with no regular patterns of rhyme, rhythm or line length

**Haiku:** Japanese poem of 17 syllables

**Hyperbole:** An exaggeration or overstatement (e.g., *I was so embarrassed I could have died*.)*.*

**Imagery:** A word or group of words in a literary work which appeal to one or more of the senses: sight, taste, touch, hearing and smell; figurative language. The use of images serves to intensify the impact of the work.

**Limerick:** A light or humorous verse form of five lines, of which lines 1, 2 and 5 rhyme and lines 3 and 4 rhyme.

**Metaphor:** A comparison of two unlike things with out like or as used( All the world is a stage.)

**Meter:** The repetition of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line of poetry.

**Onomatopoeia:** The use of words whose sounds express or suggest their meaning. In its simplest sense, onomatopoeia may be represented by words that mimic the sounds they denote such as "hiss" or "meow”.

**Personification:** An object or abstract idea given human qualities or human form

(*Flowers danced about the lawn.*).

**Poetry:** In its broadest sense, writing that aims to present ideas and evoke an emotional experience in the reader through the use of meter, imagery, connotative and concrete words, and a carefully constructed structure based on rhythmic patterns. Poetry typically relies on words and expressions that have several layers of meaning. It also makes use of the effects of regular rhythm on the ear and may make a strong appeal to the senses through the use of imagery.

**Rhyme:** Identical or very similar recurring final sounds in words usually at the end of lines of a poem.

**Rhythm:** The pattern or beat of a poem.

**Simile:** A comparison of two unlike things in which a word of comparison (*like* or *as)* is used (e.g., *She eats like a bird*.*).*

**Sonnet:** A lyric poem of fourteen lines whose **rhyme scheme** is fixed. The rhyme scheme in the Italian form as typified in the sonnets of Petrarch is *abbaabba cdecde*. The Petrarchian sonnet has two divisions: the first is of eight lines (the octave), and the second is of six lines (the sestet). The rhyme scheme of the English, or Shakespearean sonnet is *abab cdcd efef gg*.

**Stanza:** A group of lines of poetry is called a stanza. A stanza is like a paragraph in prose.

# Symbolism: Words that carry a greater meaning than themselves.

**Figurative Language:** Non-literal use of language; includes simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, idioms

**Allusion:** An implied reference which an author does not need to explain