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Module: Literature

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CHAPTER ONE: POETRY

Definition

Poetry is a literary form that uses concentrated, rhythmic, and often symbolic language to evoke emotions, provoke thoughts, and paint vivid imagery in readers' minds.

Poetry allows writers to explore deep emotions, tell personal or universal stories, and creatively express thoughts. It also encourages readers to reflect on different perspectives.

Example: Emily Dickinson's lines, "Hope is the thing with feathers / That perches in the soul." These lines illustrate how poetry captures complex emotions.

Sound and Figurative Devices

Sound and figurative devices are tools utilized by the poet to contribute to the concise and dense language of any literary work. Poems, particularly, rely heavily on the use of these devices. Sound devices contribute to the musicality of the language while figurative devices relate to the meaning.

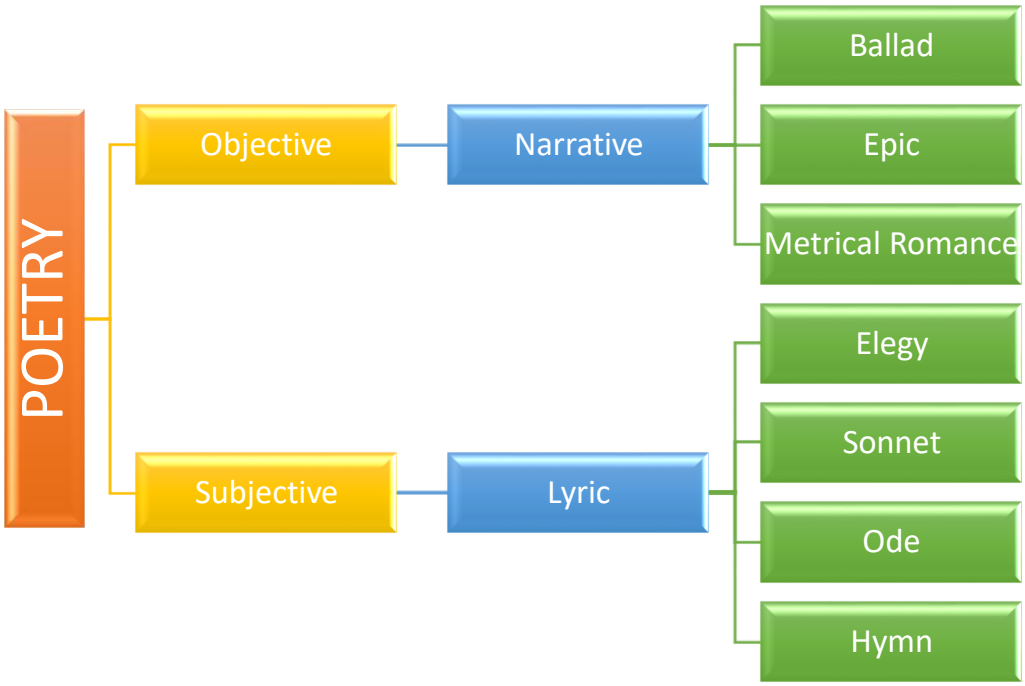
Examples of sound devices are as follows:
Alliteration: Repetition of initial consonant sounds: "Whispering winds."
Assonance: Repetition of vowel sounds: "The light of the fire is a sight to admire."
Consonance: Repetition of consonant sounds: "The ship has sailed to the far-off shores."
Onomatopoeia: Words that imitate sounds: "buzz," "splash."

Examples of figurative devices are as follows:
Metaphor: An implied comparison between two unlike things (Hope is the thing with feathers)
Simile: A direct comparison using "like" or "as" (My love is like a red, red rose)
Personification: Assigning human traits to non-human entities (The daffodils danced in the breeze)
Imagery: Descriptive language appealing to the senses (The winter evening settles down/With smell of steaks in passageways)
Hyperbole: Exaggeration for emphasis or effect (I could sleep for a year)
Oxymoron: Pairing contradictory terms (bittersweet)
Allusion: Reference to other literature, history, or myth (Alluding to the Bible or Greek myths)
Symbolism: Using objects or actions to represent abstract ideas
Irony: The expression of meaning through opposite language or outcome.

Genres of Poetry

To study poetry, scholars categorize large sets of poems as objective or subjective. On the one hand, **objective poetry** is a **long** form of poetry that **tells a story**. The term **narrative poetry** can be used as a synonym of objective poetry in certain contexts. Genres that derive from this type are the ballad, the epic, and the metrical romance. The Ballad is usually set to music; the

epic is about heroic deeds; the metrical romance combines chivalric adventure, courtly love, and supernatural elements. On the other hand, **lyric poetry** is a **short** form of poetry that **expresses feelings and emotions,** usually in first person perspective. Examples of this are the **elegy**, a mournful poem that reflects on death or loss, the **sonnet**, a 14-line poem, usually with a specific rhyme scheme, the **ode**, a formal poem that praises or reflects upon a person, thing, or concept, and the **hymn**, a poem of praise, typically directed toward a deity.

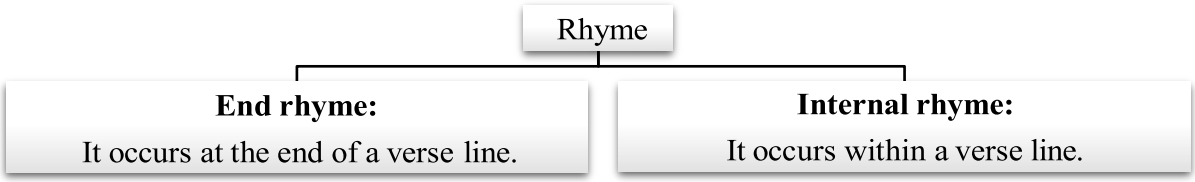


The Form of Poetry

Poetry is produced in a particular form that respects the rhyme, rhythm, and meter. Rhyme is about sound similarity, rhythm is the poem's flow, and meter is a systematic pattern in the rhythm.

1. Rhyme

It is the repetition of similar sounds at the end of lines or within lines: cat-hat, late-fate, follow-hollow. Rhyme schemes add musicality and structure to poetry.



There are 6 common types of rhyming schemes used:

1. Rhyming couplets: AABB
2. Alternating rhyme: ABAB
3. Enclosed rhyme: ABBA
4. Triplet rhyme: AAA
5. Monorhyme: AAAA

2. Rhythm

It is the overall flow and pattern of sounds in a poem, created by the arrangement of stressed and unstressed syllables. It is how the poem 'feels' when read aloud, giving it a natural beat or cadence.

3. Meter

The meter is a specific, structured pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables within a line, often measured in **feet**. The study of the theory and practice of meter is called **metrics**. Compositions written in meter are known as **verse**.

In the English language, syllables are categorized into two binary categories: strong stress and weak stress. Syllables are grouped into metric feet according to the pattern of these two degrees. A **foot** is the combination of strong stress and the associated weak stress or stress, which make up the recurrent metric unit of a line.

There are four standard feet in the English language:

Foot	Description	Example
Iambic	one unstressed syllable followed by one stressed one.	**The curfew tolls the knell of parting day**
Anapestic	two unstressed syllables followed by one stressed syllable	**The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold**
Trochaic	one stressed syllable followed by one unstressed syllable	**There they are my fifty men and women**
Dactyl	one stressed syllable followed by two unstressed ones.	**Eve, with her basket, was** **Deep in the bells and grass**