**Poetic Terminology**

**Stanza** – a group of lines of poetry arranged according to a fixed plan. Usually contain the same number of lines, meter, and rhyme scheme. Simply put – it is a paragraph of poetry.

**Common Stanza forms:**

* **Couplet – 2 lines**
* **Triplets or tercets – 3 lines**
* **Quatrains – four lines**
* **Sestet – six lines**
* **Octave – eight lines**

**Denotation**:The literal meaning of a word—the meaning you would find in a dictionary.

**Connotation**: The emotional meaning of a word—the deeper meaning a word is being used to represent. For example, “house” and “home” are literally very similar, but their connotations are very different. A house is just a building, while a home is the place you belong and where your [family](http://www.brighthub.com/education/homework-tips/articles/63904.aspx) is. “Home” has a different emotional effect than “house” does.

**Types of Poetry**

**Narrative Poetry –** the poem tells a story (has setting, characters, plot, resolution, and a strong theme)

1. Ballad – a narrative poem with a song-like form that usually tells a love story, historical event, or heroic tale. Lengthy. Usually told in third person. Discusses a single incident.
2. Legend – Long narrative poem used to explain the existence of something. Usually based on real people or places. Has a mythical quality.

**Lyrical Poetry –** a form ofpoetry that expresses powerful emotions and personal feelings

1. Free Verse – a form of modern poem that does not follow a set rhythm
2. Sonnet – a fourteen line poem that usually follows a set rhyme scheme and rhythm. Two popular forms
   1. Shakespearean Sonnet – 14 lines made up of 3 quatrains and 1 couplet; thyme scheme abab cdcd efef gg
   2. Petrarchan/Italian Sonnet – 14 lines made up of 1 octave and 1 sestet
3. Ode – a poem dedicated to praising the value or virtue of something
4. Elegy – a poem that laments the loss of someone or something
5. Haiku – Japanese poetic form that consists of three lines and a total of 17 syllables, 5 7 5. Focuses on nature. Often captures a moment in time/nature.
6. Limerick – a kind of humorous verse of five lines, in which the first, second, and fifth lines rhyme with each other, and the third and fourth lines, which are shorter, form a rhymed couplet.
7. Concrete – a poem whose shape or visual appearance contributes to its meaning
8. Descriptive Poetry – uses memorable descriptions to appeal directly to our senses. These poems engage our minds, hearts and imaginations

**Types of Rhyme**

**Rhyme –** the repetition of the same sound in different words

**Rhyme Scheme –** the pattern of end rhymes used in a poem. Usually indicated by letters (eg. Abba, bcbc, de,de)

**End Rhyme –** rhyme that occurs at the end of lines

Ex. A speak that would have been beneath my sight

On any but a paper sheet so white

**Internal rhyme –** the rhyming or two or more words within a single line of poetry

Ex. The deep cut, rough and angles seeped into his grin.

**Exact rhyme —** also called a full rhyme, perfect rhyme, or true rhyme — is when the later part of the word or phrase is identical sounding to another

**Imperfect rhyme -** rhyme in which either the vowels or the consonants of stressed syllables are identical, as in eyes, light; years, yours.

Also called [half rhyme](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/half+rhyme), slant rhyme, near rhyme

**Rhyming couplet**: Two successive lines of poetry that will rhyme and commonly have the same meter (open – cannot stand alone; closed – can stand on its own)

**Words to know about Rhythm**

**Rhythm –** the pattern of beats (accented and unaccented, or stressed and unstressed syllables) in a line of a poem. Rhythm is usually created through repetition of a particular pattern, and gives many poems a musical quality.

**Foot (plural feet) –** a group of syllables forming a metrical unit; contains one stressed syllable and one or two unstressed syllables; a long diagonal ( / ) is used to show the end of each foot

**Poetic metre –** the rhythmic structure of the poem – the way it sounds when read aloud. The rhythmical pattern resulting from the arrangement of stressed and unstressed syllables; several syllables are linked together in groups called feet; a line of poetry is usually made up of several feet.

**Blank verse**: Blank verse is a form of [poetry](http://www.brighthub.com/guides/poetry.aspx) that does not rhyme, but has a regular meter. Each line has the same (or close to the same) rhythm of stressed and unstressed syllables and words. A popular meter used in blank verse is iambic pentameter.

**Iambic pentameter**: A specific poetic meter. A line of iambic pentameter has exactly ten syllables, and the first syllable is unstressed. The line follows this pattern: unstressed, stressed, unstressed, stressed, etc. Here is an example by Shakespeare, with the stressed syllables in bold: “Shall **I** com**pare** thee **to** a **sum**mer’s **day**?”

**Common metres**

Monometre – 1 foot/line

Dimetre – 2 feet/line

Trimetre – 3 feet /line

Tetrametre – 4 feet/line

Pentametre – 5 feet/line

Hexametre – 6 feet/line

Octametre – 8 feet/line

**Common Rhythmical Patterns**

Iamb (Iambic foot) u / - unstressed stresses pattern

u / u / u / u / u / u /

Ex. I can I’ll on / ly stop / to rake/ the leaves / away

Trochee (Trochaic Foot) / u – stressed unstressed pattern

/ u / u / u / u

Ex. Happy sing a / song of / six pence

Spondaic – all stressed

/ / / / / /

Ex. Slow Spon/dee stalks;/ strong foot