Poetry Study Guide

Poetry – Words are carefully chosen to create rhythm and repetition, usually written in lines and often uses imagery.

5 Elements of Poetry Overview

1. Figurative Language
2. Imagery
3. Voice
4. Ideas and Content
5. Word Choice

Types of Figurative Language

1. Onomatopoeia: using words that sound like the word

Examples: swoosh, zing, zap, thump, bang

1. Alliteration: using words that all start with the same letter

Example: **P**eter **P**iper **p**icked a **p**eck of **p**ickled **p**eppers.

1. Hyperbole: huge exaggerations that are obviously not true

Example: I told you **a million times** to follow the flight plan.

1. Personification: human characteristics are given to non-human things

Example: The forest spoke to me.

1. Idiom: using words or phrases that could have more than one meaning

Examples: A penny saved is a penny earned. It’s a piece of cake.

1. Simile: special kinds of metaphors that use “like” or “as” to compare things

Examples: She swims **like** a fish. He is sly **as** a fox.

1. Metaphor: combine or compare two things and show how they are alike or different *without* using “like” or “as”

Examples: He **is** a giant. Her eyes **were** sparklers in the night.