

Introduction to Poetry

“In a poem the words should be as pleasing to the ear as the meaning is to the mind.” -- Marianne Moore

RHYME

The repetition of sounds

Example: hat, cat, brat, fat, mat, sat

My Beard

by Shel Silverstein

My beard grows to my toes,

I never wears no clothes,

I wraps my hair

Around my bare,

And down the road I goes.

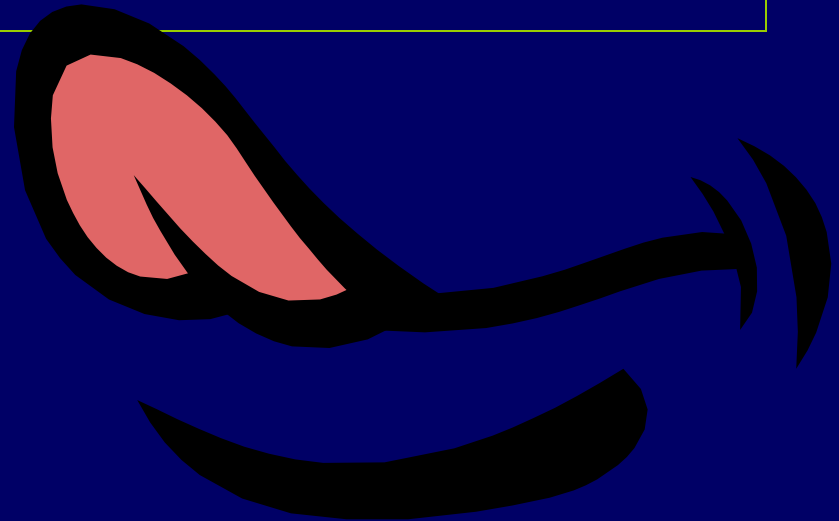
Here is another example: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGrCdq2viZg>

ALLITERATION

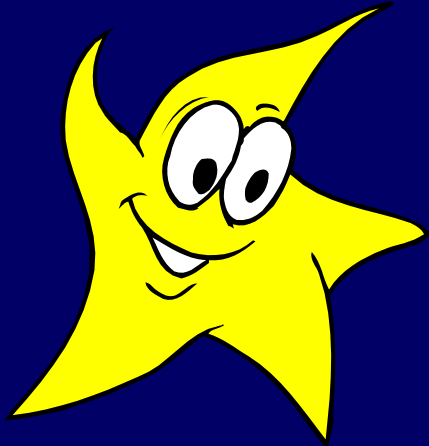
The repetition of the initial letter or sound in two or more words in a line.

To the lay-person, these are called “tongue-twisters”.

Example: How much dew would a dewdrop drop if a dewdrop did drop dew?



Let's see what
this looks like
in a poem.



These examples use the beginning
sounds of words only twice in a line, but
by definition, that's all you need.

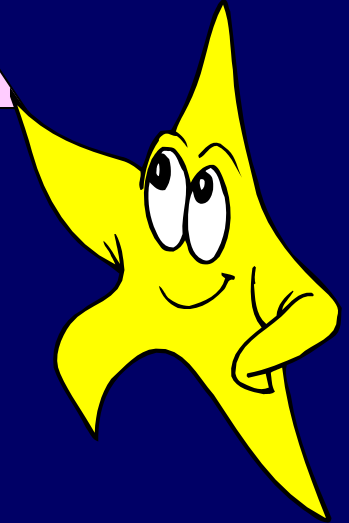
She walks in Beauty

Alliteration

Alliteration

I.
She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes:
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which Heaven to gaudy day denies.

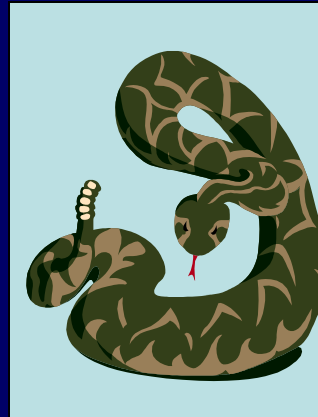
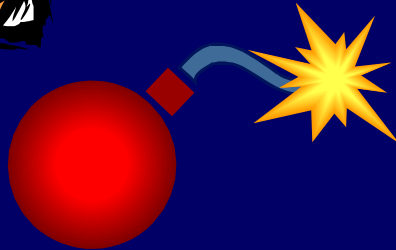
Alliteration



Onomatopoeia

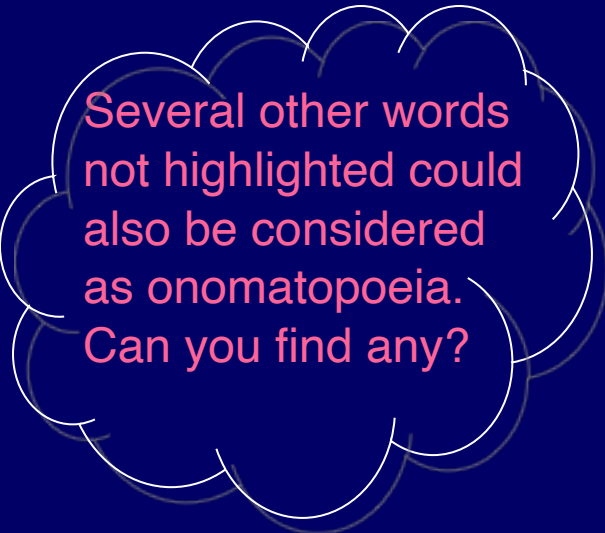
Words that spell out sounds;
words that sound like what
they mean.

Examples: growl, hiss, pop, boom, crack, ptthhhbbb.





Onomatopoeia



Several other words
not highlighted could
also be considered
as onomatopoeia.
Can you find any?

Noise Day

by **Shel Silverstein**

Let's have one day for girls and boyses
When you can make the grandest noises.

Screech, scream, holler, and yell –

Buzz a buzzer, **clang** a bell,

Sneeze – hiccup – whistle – shout,

Laugh until your lungs wear out,

Toot a whistle, kick a can,

Bang a spoon against a pan,

Sing, yodel, bellow, hum,

Blow a horn, beat a drum,

Rattle a window, slam a door,

Scrape a rake across the floor

Repetition

Using the same key word or phrase throughout a poem.

This should be fairly self-explanatory, but . . . at risk of sounding like a broken record . . .



Valued Treasure

by Chris R. Carey

Time to spend;
time to mend.

Time to hate;
time to wait.

Time is the essence;
time is the key.

Time will tell us
what we will be.

Time is the enemy;
time is the proof.

Time will eventually
show us the truth.

Time is a mystery;
time is a measure.

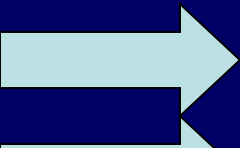
Time for us is
valued treasure.

Time to spend;
time to mend.

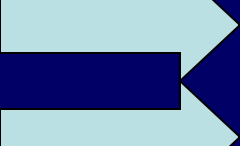
Time to cry . . .
Time to die.

Valued Treasure

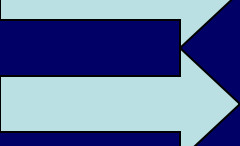
by Chris R. Carey



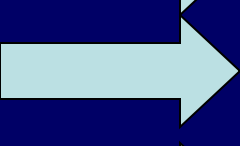
Time to spend;



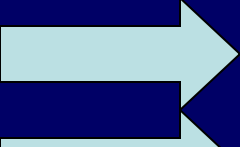
time to mend.



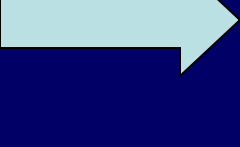
Time to hate;



time to wait.



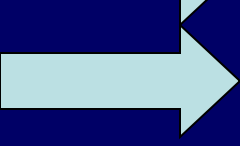
Time is the essence;



time is the key.

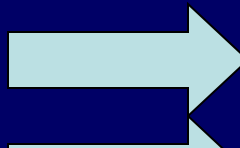


Time will tell us

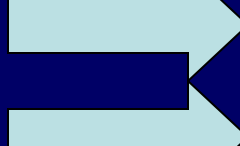


Time is the enemy;

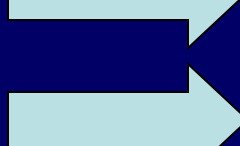
time is the proof.



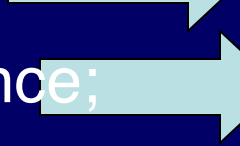
Time will eventually



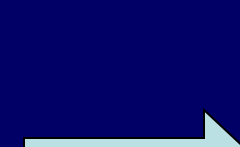
show us the truth.



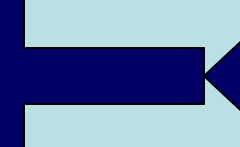
Time is a mystery;



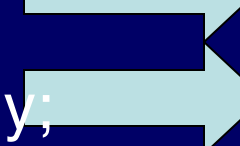
time is a measure.



Time for us is



valued treasure.



Time to spend;



time to mend.

Time to cry . . .

Time to die.

So, which is the repeated key word
or phrase?

Fairly obvious, huh?

Simile

A comparison between two usually unrelated things using the word “like” or “as”.

Examples:

Joe is as hungry as a bear.

In the morning, Rae is like an angry lion.



Let's see
what this
looks like in a
poem we
have never
seen before
in our lives

Ars Poetica

By Archibald MacLeish

A poem should be palpable
and mute as a globed
fruit,

Silent as the sleeve-worn
stone

Of cement ledges where
the moss has grown—

A poem should be wordless
As the flight of birds.

Simile

Simile

Simile

Metaphor

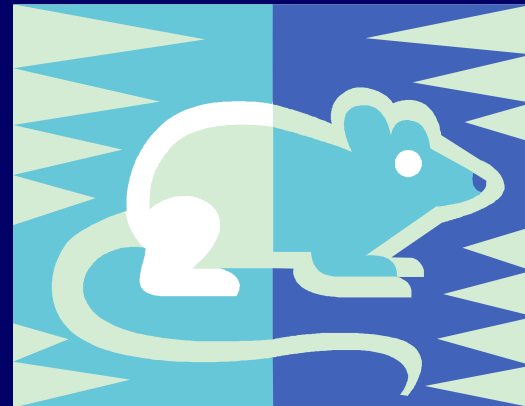
An implied comparison between two usually unrelated things.

Examples:

Lenny is a snake.

Ginny is a mouse when it comes to standing up for herself.

The difference between a simile and a metaphor is that a simile requires either “like” or “as” to be included in the comparison, and a metaphor requires that neither be used.



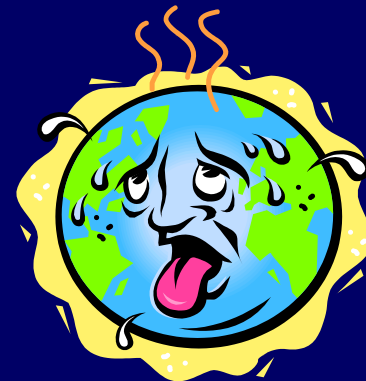
Hyperbole

An exaggeration for the sake of emphasis.

Examples:

I may sweat to death.

The blood bank needs a river of blood.

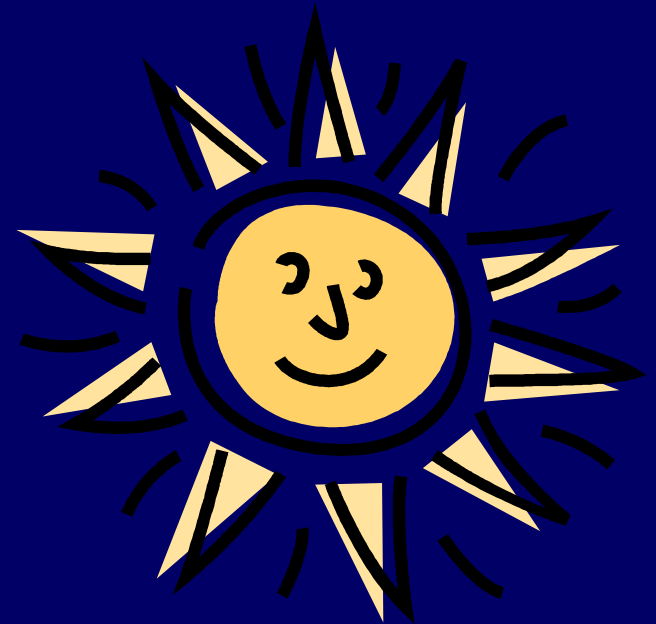


Personification

Giving human characteristics to inanimate objects, ideas, or animals.

Example:

The sun stretched its lazy fingers over the valley.



Symbol

A word or image that signifies something other than what is literally represented.

- The **color white** as a symbol for **purity**, **new life**, or **peace**.
- The **color black** as a symbol of **death**, **danger**, or **mystery**.
- The **color red** as a symbol for **love**, **passion**, or even **death**.
- The **color green** as a symbol for **rebirth**, **new life**, and **nature**.
- A **cross** as a symbol of **death**, **Christianity**, **heaven**, or **sacrifice**.
- A **home** as a symbol of **safety** and **peace**.
- A **mother** as a symbol of **comfort** and **care**.
- A **gun** as a symbol of **violence** and **fear**.



Imagery

Using words to create a picture in the reader's mind.



Yellow, and black, and pale, and hectic red,
Pestilence-stricken multitudes: O thou,
Who chariotest to their dark wintry bed

Ode to the West Wind- Percy Shelley

Free Verse

Poetry that follows no rules. Just about anything goes.

This does not mean that it uses no devices, it just means that this type of poetry does not follow traditional conventions such as punctuation, capitalization, rhyme scheme, rhythm and meter, etc.

Fog

The fog comes
on little cat feet.

It sits looking
over harbor and city
on silent haunches
and then, moves on.



No Rhyme
No Rhythm
No Meter

This is
free verse.

Allusion

A reference to another piece of literature or to history.

Example: “She hath Dian’s wit” (from *Romeo and Juliet*).

This is an allusion to Roman mythology and the goddess Diana.

The three most common types of allusion refer to mythology, the Bible, and Shakespeare’s writings.

