

## Literary terms

**Alliteration** - the repetition of the same consonant sound, especially at the beginning of several consecutive words in the same line e.g. 'Five miles meandering in a mazy motion'. (From 'Kubla Khan' by Samuel Taylor Coleridge).

**Assonance** – the repetition of similar vowel sounds e.g. 'There must be Gods thrown down and trumpets blown' (From 'Hyperion' by John Keats), showing the paired assonance of 'must' and 'trum...' and 'thrown' and 'blown'

**Atmosphere** – the pervading feeling created by a description of the setting, or the action e.g. foreboding, happiness

**Aural imagery** – images created through sound, by the use of techniques such as alliteration, assonance and onomatopoeia

**Blank verse** – unrhymed poetry that adheres to a strict pattern in that each line is an iambic pentameter (a ten-syllable line with five stresses). It is close to the rhythm of speech or prose

**Form/structure** – the way a poem is structured or laid out

**Free Verse** – a form of poetry not using obvious rhyme patterns or a consistent metre

**Iambic Pentameter** – a line of verse containing five feet, each foot having an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable

**Imagery** – the use of words to create a picture or image in the reader's mind

**Interior monologue** – similar to a soliloquy, a character talking to him or herself

**Irony** – the conveyance of a meaning that is opposite to the literal meaning of the words, e.g. 'This is a fine time to tell me', (when it is actually an inappropriate time); a situation or outcome which has a significance unforeseen at the time

**Metaphor** – figure of speech in which a person or thing is described as being the thing it resembles, e.g. 'she's a tiger' to describe a ferocious person

**Mood** - the atmosphere created by a piece of writing

**Narration, first person** – the telling of a story through the voice of a character, in their own words, e.g. "I went to the fair, even though I hated it"

**Narration, third person** – the telling of a story through the voice of the author, describing the actions of the characters, e.g. 'He went to the fair, even though he hated it'

**Onomatopoeia** – when a word sounds like the noise it describes e.g. 'pop' or 'the murmuring of innumerable bees'

**Personification** – the attribution of human qualities or feelings to inanimate objects; a kind of metaphor where human qualities are given to things or abstract ideas

**Poetic Voice** – the ‘speaker’ of the poem – the ‘voice’ of the poem might be that of the poet but could be that of a character or persona from the poet’s imagination

**Regular metre** – a regular succession of groups of long and short, stressed and unstressed syllables in which poetry is often written

**Rhyme** – corresponding sounds in words, often at the end of each line or within lines

**Rhyming Couplet** – two rhyming lines of verse

**Rhythm** – the ‘movement’ of a poem, as created by the metre and the way that language is stressed within the poem

**Simile** – figure of speech in which a person or thing is describes as being like another, usually preceded by ‘as’ or ‘like’, e.g ‘she’s like a tiger’ to describe a ferocious person

**Stanza** – the blocks of lines into which a poem is divided, forming a definite pattern

**Stream of Consciousness** – a narrative form where random thoughts give the impression that the words have spilled straight from the narrator’s mind

**Structure** – the way that a piece of story writing has been put together, for example, in a novel, the development of the plot through the arrangement of chapters

**Style** – (literary) the particular way in which writers use language to express their ideas

**Subjective information** – personal opinions and feelings

**Symbolism** – similar to imagery: symbols are things that represent something else e.g red roses are given to loved ones because they symbolise love

**Theme** – a central idea that the writer explores through a text, e.g love, loss, revenge

**Tone** – created through the combined effects of the author’s rhythm and diction

**Voice** – the speaker of the poem or prose, either the poet or author’s own voice or that of an invented character