

# Poetry Analysis

There are many ways to analyze a poem. Below are some of the more common literary concepts that you can use for your analysis. Remember that most poems exhibit only a few of these elements at one time!

## Stanza Types

- couplet
- tercet
- quatrain
- cinquain
- sestet

## Genre / Form

- ode
- sonnet
- elegy
- pastoral
- ballad
- epic
- Lyric
- Narrative
- Descriptive
- Monologue

## Theme

Does the poet examine a recurring issue of the "human condition"?

Does the poet have a clear point of view, or does s/he leave it open to interpretation?

## Emotional Impact

Imagery

Tone and Mood/Atmosphere

## Meaning Play

### Denotative (or Literal) Meaning

- metaphor
- simile
- symbol
- metonymy
- synecdoche
- personification
- oxymoron
- pun
- verbal irony
- hyperbole
- allegory
- allusion
- apostrophe

### Connotative (or Figurative) Meaning

Created by Colin Welch

## Sound Play

### Rhythm & Meter

- blank verse
- free verse
- poetic feet (e.g. iambic, trochaic)
- number of feet in a line (e.g. pentameter)

### Rhyme

- end rhyme (e.g. abab)
- internal rhyme

### Word Sounds

- alliteration
- assonance/consonance
- onomatopoeia
- dissonance/cacophony

### Word Devices

- repetition
- inversion
- parallelism
- enjambment
- caesura