

Poetry Glossary

Word	Definition	Example
alliteration	The repetition of the same or similar sounds at the beginning of words	heartlessly hoping, her harlequin hovers nearby
metaphor	A figure of speech in which two things are compared, usually by saying one thing is another, or by substituting a more descriptive word for the more common or usual word that would be expected.	a sea of trouble the world's a stage
onomatopoeia	A figure of speech in which words are used to imitate sounds. Examples of onomatopoeic words are buzz, hiss, zing,	"The moan of doves in immemorial elms,/And murmuring of innumerable bees."
personification	A figure of speech in which things or abstract ideas are given human attributes: A figure of speech in which things or abstract ideas are	dead leaves dance in the wind blind justice.
rhyme	The occurrence of the same or similar sounds at the end of two or more words.	cat/hat, goat/boat
simile	A figure of speech in which two things are compared using the word "like" or "as."	"What happens to a dream deferred?/ Does it dry up/ like a raisin in the sun?"
symbol	It is an object, animate or inanimate, that stands for a reality beyond itself.	a sunrise can represent a new beginning
theme	the message	in The King's Equal, the main ideas are pride, value of work
structure	the form of a poem: verses, stanza, rhyming pattern	