**Useful Terms for Discussing Poetry – Adult Reference**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Definition** | **Examples** |
| **Stanzas** | Poems can be broken up into **stanzas** which usually share common features such as length, rhyme or rhythm. They are groups of lines – a little like paragraphs in prose. | *There are 6 stanzas which make up* ***The Words of a Poem***. |
| **Rhythm** | **Rhythm** is beat of a poem; it moves the poem forward. Different types of poetry have different rhythms (most have a regular rhythm but some are deliberately awkward!). The best way to spot the rhythm is to read it aloud. | *I wandered lonely as a cloud*  Regular Rhythm  *That floats on high o'er vales and hills,*  *When all at once I saw a crowd,*  *A host, of golden daffodils;* |
| **Rhyme** | **Rhyme** is when words have the same sound, usually at the end of a line.  Rhyme usually relates to the whole word or the last syllable (runs/suns fantastic/elastic) but can also be found in **half rhymes** where the rhyme comes from repeated consonants. Rhyming patterns can be in **couplets** where pairs of lines rhyme or can be alternate where every other line rhymes.  We can label the pattern of rhymes (**rhyme scheme**) with letters, e.g. ABCB. | *How good to lie a little while* **A** *And look up through the tree!* **B** *The Sky is like a kind big smile* **A** *Bent sweetly over me.* **B**  Full Rhyme  Half Rhyme  *Under the stone covered in moss,  the keys to a house.* |
| **Alliteration** | **Alliteration** is a series of words, occurring close together in the phrases or lines of poetry, which have the same first consonant sound. | *They're* ***s****parklers,*  ***s****crawling their* ***s****ilver loops and hoops*… |
| **Repetition** | **Repetition** either of a word or a phrase is used in poetry for emphasis. | *The dark is only a blanket for the moon to put on her bed.*  *The dark is a private cinema for the movie dreams in your head.* |
| **Simile** | **Simile** is describing something by comparing it to another object or subject, using 'as' or 'like'. | *spells, dropping like pennies into a wishing-well* |
| **Metaphor** | **Metaphor** is describing something as *being* something else. This is a way to create a powerful image. | *poems are nails which tack the wind to a page* |
| **Personification** | **Personification** is where animals, plants or even inanimate objects, are given human qualities – resulting in a poem full of imagery and description. | *Sir Autumn is in the garden moving around –*  *the fallen leaves his cape*  *of rustling ochre, golden brown.* |
| **Imagery** | **Imagery**, is the use of description and vivid language, deepening the reader's understanding of the work by appealing to the senses. All imagery is aided through the use of other poetic devices, such as simile, metaphor, personification, onomatopoeia etc. |  |