

GENRES OF LITERATURE (POETRY)

Poetry

Poetry is a form of writing where words are selected not only for their meanings but also for their sound and the images they create. These words are usually arranged in lines with a repeated rhythm, evoking emotions and enabling the poet to express their views on any subject matter. Unlike prose, poetry follows a regular rhythmic pattern and is written in verse.

Types of Poetry

1. Epic Poetry: Epic poetry tells long stories of heroic deeds and great people, particularly those who have become historical figures. Examples include *Beowulf* and *Ulysses* by Alfred Lord Tennyson.
2. Satire: Satirical poetry ridicules the actions of individuals or society, intending to teach lessons by mocking their behaviors.
3. Lyric: A lyric poem expresses deep emotions and is often meant to be sung. An example is *To an Athlete Dying Young* by A.E. Houseman.
4. Sonnet: A sonnet is a 14-line poem with a set rhyme scheme. There are two main types:
 - a. Italian (Petrarchan): Divided into an octave and a sestet, with a rhyme scheme of abbaabba for the octave and varied for the sestet.
 - b. Shakespearean: Consists of three quatrains and a couplet with a rhyme scheme of abab cdcd efef gg.
5. Romance: Romance poetry deals with themes of love and excitement, often written to entertain.
6. Ode: An ode addresses a specific person or subject, often celebrating or reflecting on something significant. Examples include *Ode to a Nightingale*.
7. Elegy: Elegies are poems of mourning or lamentation, usually written to express grief for the dead. Examples include *Lycidas* by John Milton.
8. Idyll: This is a short poem that depicts peaceful scenes, often focusing on simple rural life. Example: *Audley Court* by Alfred Lord Tennyson.
9. Ballad: Ballads are narrative folk poems meant to be sung, telling tales of love, war, or adventure. Example: *Salute to the Elephant*.
10. Didactic Poetry; Didactic poems are intended to teach moral or social lessons.

11. Pastoral Poetry: This type of poetry highlights the simple, communal lives of people in rural settings.
12. Limerick: Limericks are humorous five-line poems.
13. Romantic Poetry: Romantic poetry focuses on the beauty of nature, using imagery from the natural world to explore themes of love and admiration. Examples include Dover Beach.
14. Parody: A parody imitates another poet's style, often to mock or criticize the original work.

Elements of Poetry

- Diction: Diction refers to the choice of words a poet uses. Effective diction enhances understanding and ensures clarity in poetry.
- Theme: The theme is the central message or subject matter of a poem. It is the core idea the poet wants to convey.
- Tone: Tone reflects the poet's attitude toward the subject of the poem, whether it is serious, playful, or sarcastic.
- Mood: Mood refers to the overall emotional effect of a poem. It reflects the poet's feelings and can vary from happy to sad, calm to angry.
- Rhyme: Rhyme is the repetition of similar sounds at the end of lines in a poem, creating a pattern and enhancing its musical quality. An example of rhyme:

“Love is not love (b)
Which alters when its alteration finds (a)
Or bends with the remover to remove (b)”

- Poetic Devices: Poetic devices are the techniques poets use to create meaning and enhance their poems. Some common poetic devices include:
 - Diction: Word choice.
 - Mood: Emotional effect.
 - Tone: Poet's attitude.
 - Style: The unique way a poet writes.
 - Structure/Form: How a poem is organized.
 - Figures of Speech: Simile, metaphor, personification, etc.
 - Imagery: Descriptive language that appeals to the senses.
 - Symbolism: Use of symbols to represent ideas.