

Elements of Poetry Packet

Part 1: Symbolism and Allegory

A **symbol** is a person, place, or thing that stands for another thing or for an idea.

- ❖ The American flag is a *symbol* of the United States.
- ❖ In a story, a dog might be a *symbol* of friendship or loyalty.

An **allegory** is a story in which all characters and events are symbols.

Part 2: Figurative Language

Figurative language is language that is used imaginatively rather than literally.

Figurative language includes one or more figures of speech—literary devices that make unexpected comparisons or change the usual meaning of words.

Some types of figures of speech include the following:

Simile: a comparison of two unlike things
using *like, as, than, or resembles*

Metaphor: a comparison of one thing as if
it were another

Personification: giving human characteristics to a nonhuman subject

Part 3: Sound Devices

Poets use **sound devices** to make sound effects with words. Sound devices help create the musical feeling of a poem. Study these sound devices:

- ❖ **alliteration:** repeated consonant sounds at the BEGINNINGS of words: *The breeze blew briskly.*
- ❖ **consonance:** repeated consonant sounds at the ENDS of words: *On the top of the step, he will tip his cap.*
- ❖ **assonance:** repeated vowel sounds: *They roam the lonesome roads and never go home.*
- ❖ **onomatopoeia:** words that imitate meanings or sounds: *With a pop and a hiss, the can burst open.*

Part 4: Imagery

Imagery is language that appeals to one or more of the senses—sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell. Images create mental pictures for readers.

Part 5: Narrative Poetry

Narrative poetry is verse that tells a story. A narrative poem usually includes the following elements:

- ❖ a **plot**, or series of connected events
- ❖ a **setting**, or a specific time and place where the events of the story occur
- ❖ **characters**, or people, animals, or objects that participate in the action of the story

These are the same elements often found in a short story or a novel. In addition, a narrative poem may create a **mood**, or general feeling, such as joy, gloom, or suspense.

Part 6: Rhyme

Rhyme is the repetition of sounds at the ends of words. Study the four most common types of rhyme.

A **rhyme scheme** is a regular pattern of end rhymes. A rhyme scheme assigns a letter to each rhyme.

In the previous box, the end rhymes are *hear/Revere/five/alive/year*. The rhyme scheme of those lines is *aabba*.