

ALLITERATION The deliberate use of a number of words beginning with the same letter.

BALLAD A poem (usually reasonably long) which is particularly concerned with telling a story.

COLLOQUIAL Informal, often slangy.

COUPLET A pair of consecutive lines, often rhyming.

ENJAMBEMENT The technique of running one line of poetry into the following line. The absence of any punctuation at the end of a line may be a sign of enjambement. The opposite of enjambement is end-stopping.

ELEGY A poem mourning the death of a person or people.

EVOKE/EVOCATIVE To create a mood or an atmosphere.

EXPOSITORY Concerned with presenting ideas and opinions.

IMAGERY The use of various techniques with words (eg. simile, metaphor, alliteration) to create a mental picture or impression.

IRONY Expressing the opposite of what is really meant.

LAMENT To regret or mourn for.

LYRIC Poem (or words of a song) expressing personal emotion. May also be used in the sense of being concerned with the beauty and personal appeal of a topic.

METAPHOR A comparison between objects without using 'like' or 'as'. The comparison usually aims to bring out one striking similarity.

MORALISING Concerned with conveying a moral message.

MONOLOGUE A (usually long) speech by one person.

MYSTICAL Concerned with mysterious spiritual matters.

NARRATIVE Concerned with telling a story.

OPEN FORM See notes on C. K. Stead, p 45.

PUN A joke based on words with similar sounds/spellings but with different meanings, eg. 'People who make puns should be punished.'

RELEVANT Connected with the topic.

REVELATION A sudden vision or moment of understanding.

SATIRE An attack (often humorous) on ideas and attitudes.

SENSUOUS Concerned with appealing to the senses in order to create a vivid physical image.

SIMILE A comparison between two objects. A simile begins with 'like' or 'as', and aims to bring out one striking similarity. Plural = similes.

SPARE/SPARENES Economical with words, using few words.

SPECULATE To wonder.

STANZA A verse.

STRUCTURE The way in which a work is organised and developed.

SYNTAX The arrangement of words in a sentence, line or paragraph.

TERZA RIMA Poetry arranged in 3-lined verses rhyming aba, bcb, cdc etc. Usually has 10 syllables per line.