

Poetry Study Guide



Rhyme scheme:

- The pattern of end rhymes in a poem. Each new end rhyme is given a new letter.
I don't know how anything's done. **A**
Does the earth turn or is it the sun? **A**
Is electricity made by a kite? **B**
Are star twinkles just the reflection of light? **B**
How thunder is made and how engines run- **A**
I don't know how anything's done. **A**

Poetic structures:

- Some poems follow a rhyme scheme and others are free verse. Free verse poems do not rhyme!
- Stanza: a section of lines of poetry (like a paragraph).
- Here are some other forms/structures of poems:

- Some poems are **concrete poems**. The words take shape instead of using stanzas.
- Some poems are **visual poems**, ones in which the arrangement of the words is as meaningful as the words themselves.
- There are also **acrostic poems**, which use the first letter of each line to create a name or word.
- **List poems** are lists that have been made poetic by the use of extraordinary description, rhyme (maybe) and humor or emotion.

Figurative language:

- A simile is a comparison using *like* or *as*.
 - Your words like knives cut me down.
- A metaphor is a comparison that does not use like or as. It can be a short comparison or an entire poem can be a metaphor for something else.
 - My heart is a radio.
- Personification is when we assign human traits to nonhuman objects.
 - The sun smiled down on us.
- Alliteration is the repetition of the first letter sound.
 - Pleasant people enjoy popular poetry.
- Hyperbole is an exaggeration for emphasis.
 - This room is a disaster zone.
- Onomatopoea is a sound word.
 - Zoom, moo, thud

