**LITERARY ELEMENTS**

*All of the following terms are literary elements, terms used in all types of literature: poetry, fiction, non-fiction, folklore. There are many more that you will learn later. Let’s begin with terms seen often in poetry.*

**POETRY: A type of literature that uses figurative language, rhyme, symbolism and imagery to create meaning. Poetry comes in many different styles like: narrative, free verse, haiku, diamante, shape acrostic, sonnet, ode, limerick, couplet, cinquain, etc.**

**Speaker:** The imaginary voice assumed by the writer of a poem, the one describing the events in a poem.

**Line:** The “sentences” of a poem. They do not need punctuation.

**Stanza:** The “paragraphs” of a poem. All the lines grouped together make up a stanza.

EX: The way a crow

Shook down on me

The dust of snow

From a hemlock tree

**Alliteration:** When several words that begin with the same letter are close together. The beginning of the words need to sound the same but don’t have to be spelled the same.

EX: Till last by PHILIP’S FARM I FLOW.

**Consonance:** The repetition of CONSONANT sounds in words that are close together. It usually comes at the end of words.

EX: I woke with a particular feeling

That I was floating on top of the ceiling.

**Assonance:** When the same VOWEL sound is repeated in words that are close together. The sounds need to be the same, BUT, they don’t have to be spelled the same.

EX: By THIRTY hills I HURRY down.

**Rhyme:** The repetition of syllable sounds.

EX: Jack and Jill went up the hill

**Rhyme Scheme:** The pattern in which the end rhyme occurs.

EX: Look at the example for line/stanza. What is the rhyme scheme?

Try this ….What is the rhyme scheme?

Twinkle, Twinkle little star,

How I wonder what you are.

Up above the world so high,

Like a diamond in the sky.

**Rhythm/Meter:** The pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables. Gives a poem a “beat.”

***FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE:*** *Language expanded beyond its ordinary literal meaning. Writer’s use the following terms to add more interest and personality to their writing.*

**Personification:** Giving human qualities to an animal, an object or idea.

EX:

**Onomatopoeia:** Words whose sounds suggests their meaning,.

EX:

**Alliteration:** When several words that begin with the same letter are close together. The beginning of the words need to sound the same but don’t have to be spelled the same.

EX: Till last by PHILIP’S FARM I FLOW.

**Voice:** A writer’s unique style of expression; reveals much about the writer’s personality, beliefs and attitudes.

**Idiom:** A word or phrase which means something different from what it says- it is an expression. Usually is a metaphor.

EX:

**Symbolism:** Representing one person or object or idea ***by using something else***.

A concrete object that represents an abstract idea.

EX:

**Repetition:** The repeated use of words or phrases in order to emphasize a point.

EX: “Go away, please. Go away, go away!!!”

**Imagery:** Words or phrases that appeal to one or more of the five senses and help to create a vivid description for the reader.

EX: The creek sparkled in the morning sun. The surrounding trees shown every color of fall: orange, yellow, red, green, brown and purple. The man in the boat slowly rowed, breathing in the crisp, cold autumn air and smiled and he listened to nature calling around him.

**Simile:** Comparing two things using the words “like” or “as.”

EX:

**Metaphor:** Comparing two things without using the words “like” or “as.”

Usually, metaphors comparing using “is” or “are.”

EX:

**Idiom:** A word or phrase which means something different from what it says- it is an expression. Usually is a metaphor.

EX:

**Personification:** Giving human qualities to an animal, an object or idea.

EX:

**Onomatopoeia:** Words whose sounds suggests their meaning,.

EX:

**Hyperbole:** Use of extreme exaggeration.

EX:

**Tone:** THE ATTITUDE OF AN AUTHOR towards the subject that he/she is writing about.

**Mood:** The atmosphere or feeling an author creates FOR THE READER in a piece of writing. The overall feeling of a work. (eerie, frightening, chaotic.)

**Theme:** The main idea; the underlying message the author wants you to think about.

EX:

**Allusion:** A *reference* to a person, place, thing, idea or another literary work.