

When you read a poem, pay attention to some basic ideas:

Voice (Who is speaking? How are they speaking?)

Stanzas (how lines are grouped)

Sound (includes rhyme, but also many other patterns)

Rhythm (what kind of "beat" or meter does the poem have?)

Figures of speech (many poems are full of metaphors and other figurative language)

Form (there are standard types of poem)

Voice

Voice is a word people use to talk about the way poems "talk" to the reader.

Lyric poems and **narrative** poems are the ones you will see most. Lyric poems express the feelings of the writer. A **narrative** poem tells a story.

Stanza

A **stanza** is a group within a poem which may have two or many lines. They are like paragraphs.

couplets--two lines that rhyme, one after the other, usually equal in length.

Sound

Refrain - Lines repeated in the same way, that repeat regularly in the poem.

Assonance - Assonance happens when vowels agree in words, though they may not rhyme. (peach, tree)

Meter (or metrics) - When you speak, you don't say everything in a steady tone like a hum--you'd sound funny. Instead, you **stress** parts of words. You say different parts of words with different volume, and your voice rises and falls as if you were singing a song. Mostly, we don't notice we're doing it.

Figures of speech

Figures of speech are also called figurative language.

Simile - a comparison of one thing to another, using the words "like," "as," or "as though."

Metaphor - comparing one thing to another by saying that one thing is another thing. Metaphors are stronger than similes, but they are more difficult to see.

Personification - speaking as if something were human when it's not.