



**DYLAN THOMAS**  
ROCK AND ROLL POET - KS4

# Poetry Terms GCSE



# Learning Objectives

- By the end of the lesson I will:
  - have addressed my current knowledge of techniques used in poetry;
  - have revised terminology that will be essential for my external examinations.



## Class Discussion

### Task:

- Discuss what you think is meant by 'poetic term' or 'poetic device';
- In pairs list as many terms as you can think of;
- How many of these are you able to provide a definition or example for?



## WHAT SHOULD I KNOW?

### **Simile**

Describing something by comparing it to something else

*My love is like a red, red rose.*

### **Metaphor**

Something or someone is described as being something else

*The soldier was a lion in battle. He's a cheeky monkey.*

### **Personification**

Describing something by comparing it to a person

*The candle flame danced.*

### **Alliteration**

When words begin with the same sound

*The pages were mildewed and musty.*

### **Sibilance**

When words begin/contain the letter s

*The snake slithered smoothly in the sand.*



## **Assonance**

When vowel sounds within words are the same or very similar

The moon loomed over the wood.

## **Repetition**

When a word or idea appears more than once to firmly fix it in the mind

Life doesn't frighten me at all, not at all.

## **Onomatopoeia**

When a word sounds like the noise it makes

Snap, crackle, pop

## **Line**

The way words are grouped together

Xxxxxxxx

## **Caesura**

A pause within a line of poetry to give emphasis

An expert. He would set the wing.



## Enjambement

When one sentence flows from one line or stanza into the next

with a single pluck

Of reins, the sweating team turned round

## Stanza

Groups of lines in a poem (a verse)

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX

## Rhythm

This describes the beat of a poem

I've got the children to tend

The clothes to mend

## Rhyme

When lines of poetry end with the same sounds

The floor to mop

The food to shop



## **Pace**

The speed of a poem

long slow lines; short fast lines

## **Pivot**

Point at which poem changes mood, time, etc.

But now...

## **Imagery:**

Use of **word pictures**, figures of speech (**similes, metaphors, personification**) and **description** to create ideas feelings.

## **Irony:**

Use of words or phrases that are often sarcastic and or humorous.

It would be ironic for a police officer to be arrested.

## **Symbol:**

When a word, phrase or image stands for or calls up a set of ideas  
the **sun** can symbolize life and energy,  
a **red rose** can symbolize romantic love.



## USING THE TECHNIQUE OF SMILE AS A REVISION AID

### S - STRUCTURE:

How is this piece **organised**?

(how many stanzas/verses)

How is the idea **developed**?

(what words or phrases give the images or theme emphasis or clarity)

What is the **structure**?

(line length/rhyme scheme? Is there any rhythm/repetition/ enjambment?)

### M – MEANING:

What is the poem about?

Does it have a **message**?

What is the poet discussing?

Is there an **overall theme and idea** in the poem?





## I – IMAGERY:

What **pictures** do you get in your mind when you read the poem?

Does the poem contain **similes/metaphors or personification**?

**Why** do you think the poet has included these images in the poem?

## L – LANGUAGE:

What **words** has the poet used to create an image?

Are there any complicated words?

Is the language simple to understand?

Which words and phrases create the images? (Use brief quotations to prove your point).

## E – EFFECT:

What is the effect of the poem?

What does the poem make you feel/think about?

What opinion does it show about the subject?

What is the poet trying to say about their subject?