

Elements of Poetry

How to Read a Poem

1. Read once aloud. Remember to read complete thoughts. Don't read to the end of the line and pause: it will make it more difficult to understand
2. Check for any words that are new. You can't understand a poem if you don't know what the individual words mean.
3. Read again (paying attention to figurative language)
4. Paraphrase any passages that don't make sense. Remember: every single word in a poem serves a purpose.
5. Read again (paying attention to sound devices)

Figurative Language

- Literal language means something we understand exactly how it's written. Something that is literal means what it says and nothing more.
- Figurative language means more than what it says on the surface. Something that is figurative usually doesn't *only* mean what says; it usually means a lot more. Sometimes, it doesn't even make sense literally. "My love is a rose" is something we *can't* take literally; we can only understand it figuratively.

Definitions	Basic Example	Examples from Poems	My Examples
Metaphor			
Simile			
Personification			

Sound Devices	Basic Example	Examples from Poems	My Examples
Alliteration			
Assonance			
Consonance			
Rhyme			
Repetition			
Meter			
Onomatopoeia			