Poetry Background

Basics You Should Know
Types of Poetry

- Lyric
  - subjective and reflective
  - thoughts of a single speaker
  - limited length
  - regular rhyme scheme and meter
  - single, unique impression
Types of Lyrics

1. Elegy - poem of lament, meditating on the death of an individual

2. Idyll/Pastoral - describes the life of shepherd in bucolic, idealistic terms; it is technically a pastoral if setting is in height of summer, nature’s fecundity

3. Ode - elaborate; usually lengthy; deals seriously with a dignified subject
## Types of Lyrics

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<th>Types</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
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| **Italian/Petrarchan**     | - octave and sestet  
                            | - abba, abba, cde, cde                                                         |
| **Miltonian**              | - all Italian characteristics except octave and sestet are not divergent        |
| **English/Shakespearian**  | - three quatrains and a couplet                                                  |
|                            | - iambic pentameter                                                             |
|                            | - abab, cdcd, efef, gg                                                          |
| **Spenserian**             | - all English characteristics except                                             |
|                            | abab, bcbc, cdcd, ee                                                            |
5. Villanelle-five tercets and a quatrain; lines 1, 6, 12, and 18 are a refrain; lines 3, 9, 15, and 19 are a refrain; rhyming aba, aba, aba, aba, aba, aba, abaa.
Types of Poetry

Narrative

- nondramatic
- objective
- regular rhyme scheme and meter
- tells a story
Types of Narratives

-1. Epic: long, dignified narrative which gives account of hero important to a nation/race

-2. Ballad: orally transmitted; tells story from local history or popular legend; quatrains abab; lines 1 and 3 iambic tetrameter and 2 and 4 iambic trimeter (also in song section)
Types of Poetry

Dramatic

- presents a voice of an imaginary character speaking directly, without additional narration from the author
- usually addresses a specific audience
- usually written as part of a play
Types of Dramatic Poetry

-1. Dramatic Monologue: a speech made by character (not author) at a decisive moment which is addressed to a specific audience who remains silent
Types of Poetry

Light Verse

- written for entertainment
- can be a lyric
- can be silly or serious
- can be parody or satire
Types of Light Verse

-1. Limerick: five anapestic lines; lines 1, 2, and 5 are trimeter and lines 3 and 4 are dimeter; aabba; usually silly/nonsensical

-2. Epigram: short poem with witty or ingenious turn of thought at end
Types of Poetry

Song

- intended for musical expression
- usually brief, straightforward and emotional
- can be a lyric
1. Ballad: (see narrative section)
2. Dirge: song of lament, usually a commemoration for the dead; less elaborate than an elegy
3. Hymn: religious emotion, usually praising a divine or venerated being; can be lyric
4. Rap: spoken word set to music; usually with a rhythm of beats
5. Blues: poem of sadness, pain, or deprivation consisting of rhyming tercets in which the first two lines are identical; usually shows some wisdom from bitter life experience
Forms of Poetry

Closed Form

- follows a pattern
- looks symmetrical to the eye
Closed Form Patterns

❖ Blank Verse-Unrhymed Iambic Pentameter (line pattern, not stanza pattern)

❖ Couplet two-line stanza, usually rhymed with lines of equal length
  - 1. heroic couplet: rhymed, end-stopped, iambic pentameter; parallel or antithesis
  - 2. octosyllabic couplet: iambic or trochaic tetrameter
Closed Form Patterns

- **Tercet** three-line stanza
  1. Terza Rima: linked tercets; aba, bcb, cdc
- **Quatrain** four-line stanza
- **Cinquain** five-line stanza
- **Sestet** six-line stanza
- **Septet** seven-line stanza
- **Octet (Octave)** eight-line stanza
Open Form Patterns

- Free Verse—without regular rhyme scheme or meter, relies heavily on artful breaking of lines and sound techniques
- Projective Verse—varying amounts of white space between words/lines show pauses
- Concrete—words of poem in a specific shape
Structure of Poetry

- Repetitive-repeated words, lines, stanzas, syntax, sentences, types of sentences, punctuation, rhyme, literary devices, feet, meter. . .; may contain parallelism, antithesis, anaphora, epistrophe, anadiplosis, epanalepsis, end-stopped/enjambed lines, cadence, antimetabole, chiasmus, epithets, motif, rhetorical questions, etc.
Structure of Poetry

- Narrative - tells a story

- Logical - argues a case or comes to a conclusion; may use verbal irony, understatement, litotes, overstatement, hyperbole, paradox, logos, pathos, ethos, etc.
Metrics of Poetry

- Foot-basic unit of measure in a line of poetry
- Iambic: u/; da-DUM; a trot, except, the tree
- Trochaic: /u; DUM-da; canter, asking, make it
- Spondaic: //; DUM-DUM; football, heartbreak
- Pyrrhic: uu; da-da; on a
- Anapestic: uu/; da-da-DUM; anapest, understand
- Dactylic: /uu; DUM-da-da; tenderly, talk to me
- Amphibrach: u/u; da-DUM-da; addresses, I make it
- Amphimacer: /u/; DUM-da-DUM; Sound the flute, day and night
Metrics of Poetry

- Meter-the number/pattern of feet in a line of poetry
  - Monometer-one foot in the line
  - Dimeter-two feet in the line
  - Trimeter-three feet in the line
  - Tetrameter-four feet in the line
  - Pentameter-five feet in the line
  - Hexameter-six feet in the line
  - Heptameter-seven feet in the line
  - Octometer-eight feet in the line
Metrics of Poetry

- **Rhythm** - stresses happen at regular intervals in the poem; each line should have a certain rhythm and you begin a new line to repeat the rhythm; ex. iambic pentameter

- **Scansion** - the process of drawing the stressed and unstressed symbols above syllables in poetry

- **Prosody** - the study of principles of verse structure (feet, meter, rhyme, sound, stanzas)