Some Terms in Poetics: Sound

rhyme

perfect rhyme
masculine (one syllable)
- page-wage
- straight-debate
- unclean-demean
feminine (two or three syllables)
- growing-flowing
- unfortunate-importunate (three-syllable, or dactylic)
imperfect or slant rhyme
- assonant
- make-fate
- consonant
- most-fast

internal rhyme “A capital ship for an ocean trip/
Was the Walloping Window Blind”
sight rhyme bough-cough
hidden rhyme (Cockney)
wife=trouble (“trouble and strife”)

alliteration
“The lone and level sands stretch far away.” (Shelley)

onomatopoeia

- splash, gurgle, murmur
Much onomatopoeia is language specific. For example, “splash” in Japanese is “bo-chunk.”

repetition

end word
ghazal:
Where are you now? Who lies beneath your spell tonight?
Whom else from rapture’s road will you expel tonight? (Agha Shahid Ali)

Repeated line – triolet, villanelle

refrain (one or more lines repeated) e.g., many songs (“As Time Goes By” from Casablanca) Strictly Sonnets
Some Terms in Poetics: Meter

The rhythms in English verse are based on *stress*, as opposed to those of Latin and Greek verse, which are based on *quantity* (long and short vowels). So Latin and Greek scansion shows the “accent” as a *macron* (–), whereas in English the *ictus* (/) is generally used. The marking for short or unaccented syllables (u) is called a *breve*.

by line length:
1 foot – monometer
2 feet – dimeter
3 feet – trimeter
4 feet – tetrameter
5 feet – pentameter
6 feet – hexameter
7 feet – septameter
8 feet – octameter

by foot size and shape:

Two-syllable feet:
/ u  iamb
/ u  trochee
/ /  spondee
u  u  pyrrhus

Three-syllable feet
/ u  u  dactyl
u  u  /  anapest
u  / u  amphibrach
/ u  /  amphimacer

There are names for four-syllable feet, but you have to pay extra to know them.
Some Terms in Poetics: Stanzas

_Couplets:_ A little learning is a dangerous thing;  
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring:  
There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,  
And drinking largely sobers us again.  
Pope

_Tercet:_ Do not go gentle into that good night,  
Old age should burn and rage at close of day;  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.  
(from a villanelle) Thomas

_Quatrain:_ It is an ancient Mariner,  
And he stoppeth one of three.  
`By thy long grey beard and glittering eye,  
Now wherefore stopp'st thou me?  
Coleridge

_Cinquain:_ These be  
Three silent things:  
The fallen snow, the hour  
Before the dawn, the mouth of one  
Just dead  
Crapsey

Sestet and octave are the parts of a **Pettrachan** sonnet. We have seen plenty of examples.

A seven-line stanza is a _septet_. The main surviving seven-line form is the **rime royal**:

_Borne by the trustless wings of false desire,  
Lust-breathed Tarquin leaves the Roman host,  
And to Collatium bears the lightless fire  
Which in pale embers hid, lurks to aspire  
And girdle with embracing glames the waist  
Of Collantine's fair love, Lucrece the chaste._  
Shakespeare
Poetic Terms: Tropes and Images

Figures of Substitution

metaphor (simile): The substitution of one object (the vehicle) for another (the tenor):
   “Love's not time's Fool” (Shakespeare)
   “My luv is like a red, red rose” (Burns)

synechdoche (metonymy): referral to an object by its part or something associated with it:
   All hands on deck
   He hung up his cleats forever
   or the whole for the part: England won the world cup

personification: treating an abstraction or something not human as if it were a person:
   “Death, be not proud” (Donne)

apostrophe: addressing an abstraction or something not human:
   “Bright star! I would be steadfast as thou art” (Keats)

Literary Devices

hyperbole: exaggeration:
   “I loved Ophelia.
   twenty thousand brothers . . .” (Shakespeare)

meiosis: using a term or phrase that denigrates something:
   foxhunting: “the pursuit of the uneatable by the unspeakable.” (Wilde)

oxymoron: inherent but meaningful contradiction:
   “feather of lead” (Shakespeare)

litotes: emphasizing something by denying its opposite:
   “non incautus futuri” “not unmindful of the future” (motto of Washington and Lee University)

travesty: treating something elevated as ordinary:
   “And far as the eye of God could see
   Darkness covered everything,
   Blacker than a hundred midnights
   Down in a cypress swamp.”
   (James Weldon Johnson)