

English Department key terms glossary – poetry.

The following terms will be taught to students in year 7 and revisited in years 8 and 9. All of the terminology is useful for studying literature in years 10 and 11.

Poetry		Literary devices	
Poem	A piece of writing in which the expression of feelings and ideas is given intensity by particular attention to diction (sometimes involving rhyme), rhythm, and imagery.	Metaphor	An expression, often found in literature, that describes a person or object by referring to something that is considered to have similar characteristics to that person or object using 'is' or 'was' e.g. the mind is an ocean, the city is a jungle
Stanza	A group of lines of verse, usually set off from other groups by a space.	Simile	An expression, often found in literature, that describes a person or object by referring to something that is considered to have similar characteristics to that person or object using 'like' or 'as' e.g. the clouds were as dark as night
Verse	A verse is formally a single metrical line in a poetic composition, but can refer to a group of lines.	Personification	Human qualities or traits applied to inanimate objects e.g. the wind howled; the tide crept ominously
Rhyme	The repetition of syllables, typically at the end of a verse line.	Onomatopoeia	Comes from the combination of two Greek words, one meaning "name" and the other meaning "I make," so onomatopoeia literally means "the name (or sound) I make." E.g. boing, smash, plop, splat
Rhythm	Rhythm is a literary device that demonstrates the long and short patterns through stressed and unstressed syllables, particularly in verse form.	Alliteration 1 Sibilance 2 Consonance 3 Assonance 4	1 Repetition of letters or sounds at the beginning or within a word e.g. crashing, curling commotion of waves 2 Use of 's' sound for effect e.g. slowly slithering snake 3. Use of repeated consonants for effect e.g. stuttering rifles rapid rattle 4 Repeated vowel sounds within words e.g. the light of the fire is a sight to admire
Iambic pentameter Trochaic tetrameter	Metrical feet in poetry used to measure rhythm and stressed/unstressed syllables.	Fricatives – f, th, s Plosives – p, b, d, c Nasal stops – m,n	Names given to phonological sounds produced by different letters to create an effect, emotion, or emphasis
Enjambment	When a line of verse runs on into the next without punctuation, thereby emphasising the speaker's flow of thoughts or emotions	Caesura	The use of punctuation in the middle of a line of verse, used to emphasise a change in direction, mood, or emotion of the speaker. Can often indicate confusion, irrationality, the breaking down of order.

English Department key terms glossary – rhetoric.

The following terms will be taught to students in year 7 and revisited in years 8 and 9. All of the terminology is useful for studying literature in years 10 and 11, particularly the structure for rhetorical arguments, which underpins the point of view writing for the language examination.

Rhetorical devices		Structure for rhetorical arguments	
Anaphora	Repetition of words or phrases at the start of successive clauses e.g. I have a dream...I have a dream...	Invention	Separate both sides of the argument in to two columns
Hypophora	When a rhetorical question is answered for the audience e.g. 'Should this be allowed? No it should not.'	Exordium	Opening gambit – capturing the audience’s attention and setting out your stall in terms of suitability to comment on the topic
Epistrophe	Repetition of words or phrases at the end of successive clauses e.g. ...by the people, for the people.	Narration	Background to the issue at hand – proving you are not just someone with an opinion, but you also have the facts
Polysyndeton	Use of multiple conjunctions to emphasise a list e.g. he is brave and bold and bright and brilliant	Division	Consideration of other points of view regarding the topic – showing you are open-minded and aware of others’ views
Asyndeton	Removal of conjunctions to emphasise a list e.g. he is brave, bold, bright, brilliant... (indicates the speaker could continue	Proof	Your argument – demonstrating through logos, ethos and pathos why your argument is correct
Tricolon	Three words, clauses, or phrases used consecutively to emphasise the content	Refutation	Dismantling the opposition’s arguments – using logos, ethos and pathos explain why they cannot be believed/followed
Hyperbole	Exaggeration of an idea e.g. was a life-changing discovery	Peroration	Final flourish – leave your audience under no illusions that everything they have just heard is anything but the truth