Poetry Terms

alliteration: repetition of same sound at the beginning of several words in a line

allusion: reference to a well-known person, place, or thing

antonym: words with opposite meanings

assonance: repetition of vowel sounds

author's perspective: the purpose a writer has for the text effect on its audience

author's style: how an author uses language to shape the tone or mood of their writing

classic literature: prose or poetry enjoyed by many for centuries

connotation: emotions or ideas associated with a word

consonance: repetition of consonant sounds

context clues: clues that help the reader determine the meaning of words in a sentence

denotation: the literal, dictionary meaning of a word

hyperbole: exaggeration to make a point or create an effect

idiom: a common saying that is not meant to be taken literally

imagery: author's use of sensory language to create a mental picture for the reader

metaphor: compare two unalike things

meter: the stressed and unstressed syllables

mood: feeling the reader gets from the text

onomatopoeia: using words whose sound imitates its meaning

personification: giving human characteristics to inhuman object

point of view: the view from which the narrator tells the story

refrain: in poetry, repeated words or lines

rhyme: gives a poem a musical quality

rhythm: pattern of sound within a poem

simile: compare two unalike things with "like" or "as"

stanza: poetry divided into groups of lines

symbolism: using an object to represent an idea

synonym: words with similar meanings

theme: central idea expressed; usually related to one of the universal themes

tone: author's attitude toward their subject