



**Buffalo City Metro District**  
**ENGLISH HL&FAL**  
**Elements of poetry**  
**Grade 10-12**  
**April 2020**  
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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- 2019 Diagnostic Report
- Defining a poem
- Features/ Elements of a poem
  - Subject, form, sound devices, imagery, mood, tone & themes.
- Analysing specific poems
  - Mid-term break
  - Sonnets (Grade 12)
  - Captive
- Assessment (Worksheets/question papers)



# 2019 Diagnostic Report

- (a) Learners cannot acquire insight into the texts without having mastered knowledge of the content. Poetry must be studied in detail BOTH literally and figuratively. This must include all poetic devices, tone and mood and how these contribute to overall meaning.
- (b) It is noted with concern that many candidates did not appear to be familiar with basic literary terminology such as *mood*, *tone* and *imagery* or with the terminology used in the questions.
- (c) Themes should not merely be memorised without insight.
- (d) Fewer candidates responded to the poetry essay (Q1) this year and those who did relied on paraphrasing and lifting instead of critically engaging with the content of the poem and the question. In many cases, no reference was made to *imagery*, *punctuation* and *tone* and where reference was made to these aspects of the poem, they were poorly handled. (HL)
- (e) It is evident that the skills of poetry analysis are not being transferred from the prescribed poetry to the unseen poem. (HL)



# DEFINING POETRY

- **Poetry** is a form of writing that uses not only words, but also **form, patterns of sound, imagery, and figurative language** to convey a message.
- A single poem may include some or all of these elements.



# ELEMENTS/FEATURES OF A POEM

## FORM

- A poem's form is its **appearance**. Poems are divided into **lines**.
- Many poems, especially longer ones may also be divided into groups of lines called **stanzas**. Stanzas function like paragraphs in a story. Each one contains a single idea or takes the idea one step further.



# ELEMENTS/FEATURES OF A POEM

## SOUND DEVICES

- Some poems use techniques of sound such as **rhythm**, **rhyme**, and **alliteration**.



# Rhythm:

- The pattern of beats or stresses in a poem.
- Poets use patterns of stressed and unstressed syllables to create a regular rhythm.



# RHYME

- The repetition of the same or similar sounds, usually in stressed syllables at the ends of lines, but sometimes within a line:  
e.g.1. *There are strange things done in the  
midnight sun*



# Rhyme Scheme

- The rhyming pattern that is created at the end of lines of poetry.

abab cdcd efef gg

Sonnet 130

Quatrain 1: sun, red, done, head

Quatrain 2: white, cheeks, delight, reeks

Quatrain 3: know, sound, go, ground

Couplet: rare, compare

- If the poem does not have a rhyme scheme, it is considered to be free verse.



# SOUND DEVICES

- **Alliteration:**

- The repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words.

- e.g. *1. Seven silver swans swam silently seaward*

- **Assonance**

- The repetition of vowels, in a single word or a series of words.

- E.g. *The engineer held the steering to steer the vehicle.*



# SOUND DEVICES cont...

## Onomatopoeia

- Words that are used to represent particular sounds.

E.g. Crash, Boom, Bang, Zip.

## Repetition

- The repetition of a particular sound device to create an effect.
- To create emphasis, a poet may repeat words or lines within the poem.



# Imagery

- Poets use words that appeal to the reader's senses:  
Sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell.

## Figures of Speech

NB: Check the English Handbook (pg 40-43)

- Figures of speech are a special kind of imagery.
- They create pictures by making comparisons.



# Figures of Speech cont...

- **Personification**
- **Metaphor**
- **Simile**



# Figures of speech:

## Paradox

- A statement which is self-contradictory but which contains some truth. “One has to be cruel to be kind.”
- E.g. Punishing a child...

## Oxymoron:

- paradox contained in two words: “**rotten beauty**”.

A beautiful girl with low morals is outwardly beautiful, but inside she is rotten.



## Other Literary devices

- **Symbolism:** A symbol is any word or object which represents or suggests an idea.
- **Sarcasm:** Bitter or wounding remark.
  - reveals the speaker's attitude or feelings.
- **Irony:** Expression of meaning by language of opposite or different tendency.



# JOHN LEGEND: ALL OF ME

- Listen to the song and identify the mood and tone.



All of Memp3

- What is the difference between tone and mood?



# MOOD/TONE

- **Tone**: is the poet's attitude towards his subject.
- E.g.\* sincere, \* humorous, \* forceful, \*critical, \* sarcastic, \* ironic, \* loving, \* sentimental, \* joyful, \* bitter
- **Mood**: is a term used to refer to the atmosphere the poet creates within his particular work.
- The feelings the poet's word choices (diction) give to the poem.
- Analysis of mood/tone. (John Legend)



# Themes

- The theme of a poem is its central or main idea.
- To identify the theme, ask yourself what ideas or insights about life or human nature have you found in the poem.



# ANALYSING SPECIFIC POEMS

- Use of the 'SIFT' Method
  - Subject
  - Structure
  - Imagery
  - Intentions
  - Feelings
  - Themes
  - Tone
- **CAPS DOCUMENT: PAGE 25**



# ANALYSING SPECIFIC POEMS

## cont...

- Historical background
- Poet's background
- Context of the poem
- Title
- Reading & vocabulary
- General overview of the poem
- Comprehensive analysis
- Themes, tone & mood



# QUESTIONS





# THANK YOU

