KS3 English: revision notes

Poetry

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Forms of poem

- A **sonnet** has 14 lines and is often about love. A **haiku** has 3 lines of 5, 7 and 5 syllables. A limerick has 5 lines, rhymes AABBA and is funny.
- A ballad tells a story, often in four-line **stanzas**. Free verse has no regular rhyme or rhythm.

Structure

- A **stanza** is a group of lines (a verse). The **rhyme scheme** uses letters to show which lines rhyme, such as ABAB.
- **Enjambment** is when a sentence runs on from one line to the next. A **caesura** is a pause in the middle of a line.
- A **refrain** is a line or phrase that is repeated through a poem.

Sound and imagery

- **Alliteration** repeats the same consonant sound at the start of nearby words ("silent snowflakes softly settled"). Assonance repeats vowel sounds. Sibilance repeats "s" sounds.
- **Onomatopoeia** uses words that sound like their meaning: crash, buzz, sizzle.
- Imagery includes similes, metaphors and **personification**.

Analysing a poem

- The **speaker** is the voice of the poem, which isn't always the poet. The tone is the attitude (angry, playful, sad); the mood is the feeling it creates.
- Ask: what is the poem about? How does it make me feel? Which techniques create that feeling?
- Always explain the effect of a technique, not just name it.

Your notes

Key terms

Stanza	A group of lines in a poem (a verse).
Rhyme scheme	The pattern of rhymes in a poem, such as ABAB.
Sonnet	A 14-line poem, often about love.
Haiku	A three-line poem with 5, 7 and 5 syllables.
Alliteration	Repeating the same consonant sound at the start of nearby words.
Onomatopoeia	A word that sounds like its meaning, such as "buzz".
Enjambment	A sentence running on from one line to the next.
Caesura	A pause in the middle of a line.
Personification	Giving human qualities to something that isn't human.
Refrain	A line or phrase repeated through a poem.
Speaker	The voice of a poem, which isn't always the poet.

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. How many lines does a sonnet have?
2. What is the syllable pattern of a haiku?
3. What is a stanza?
4. What is alliteration?
5. Which of these words is onomatopoeia?
6. What is enjambment?
7. What is a caesura?
8. What is personification?

Answers

1. 14
2. 5, 7, 5
3. A group of lines in a poem
4. Repeating the same consonant sound at the start of nearby words
5. Crash
6. A sentence running on from one line to the next
7. A pause in the middle of a line
8. Giving human qualities to something that isn't human

What to do next

Practise 13 questions on this topic

Try 4 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

Your notes

Your notes