



Some literary terms

Very often writers highlight important words. They do this with:

- **Alliteration** – several words starting with the same letter or sound, for example, ‘bleared and black and blind’.
- **Assonance** – same vowel sound in different words. (‘far, star’)
- **Cesura** – a break or pause in the middle of a line of poetry.
- **Enjambement** or run-on lines – when there is no punctuation at the end of a line of verse and it runs straight on to the next line.
- **Onomatopoeia** – the effect when the sound of a word reflects its meaning, like ‘plash’.
- **Personification** – when something that is not human is referred to as if it is a person. The effect is usually to exaggerate some aspect of the topic.
- **Repetition** – repeated word or meaning.
- **Rhyme** – very similar to assonance; same vowel sound and final consonant, for example, ‘say’, ‘decay’.
Masculine rhyme – when the final syllable is stress, as in ‘say’ and ‘decay’.
Feminine rhyme – when the final syllable is not stressed, as in ‘growing’, ‘showing’.
- **Rhythm** – the musical beat of the line, with stressed and unstressed syllables (the stressed syllables will be the important ones).

They can also use **comparisons**:

- A **metaphor** is a figure of speech that is used to make a comparison between two things that aren't alike but do have something in common.
- Unlike a **simile**, where two things are compared directly using “like” or “as”.



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