

# Understanding Poetry: Building Blocks of Verse



## Basic Elements of Poetry



# Lines and Stanzas



## Line

- A line is a single row of words in a poem.
- A stanza is a group of lines working together (like a paragraph in prose).

### Example:

*Roses are red, (Line 1)*

*Violets are blue, (Line 2)*

**Stanza**

These two lines form one stanza



# Rhyme and Sound

- Rhyme occurs when words share similar ending sounds.
- End rhyme: rhyming words at the end of lines.
- Internal rhyme: rhyming words within the same line.
- Rhythm: the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables.
- Meter: the measured pattern of rhythmic beats.
- Common meter: alternating stressed and unstressed syllables.





# POETIC FORM

The structure or organization of a poem

*Common forms include:*

- **Haiku:** three lines (5-7-5 syllables).
- **Sonnet:** 14 lines with specific rhyme patterns.
- **Free verse:** no set pattern or structure.

# LANGUAGE TOOLS

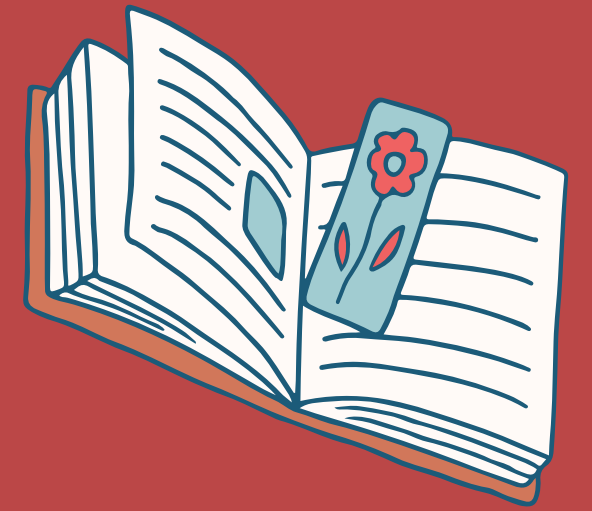


- Diction: word choice and style
- Syntax: how words are arranged in sentences
- Grammar: rules that govern language use

## Example:

"The wind whispers softly" shows careful diction.

"Through trees dancing gently" demonstrates poetic syntax.

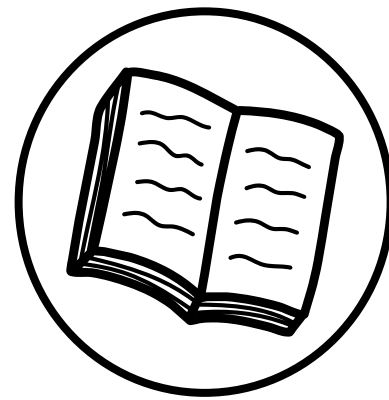






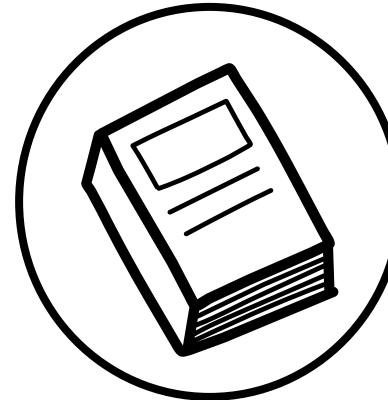
# Imagery and Figurative Language

IMAGERY: WORDS THAT CREATE PICTURES IN THE READER'S MIND



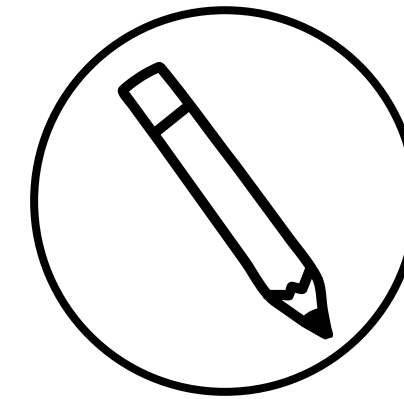
## Simile

Compares things  
using "like" or "as"  
"Quick as a fox"



## Metaphor

Direct comparison  
"Life is a roller  
coaster"



## Personification

Giving human qualities  
to non-human things  
"The sun smiled down"



## PRACTICE TIP

When reading poetry,  
look for these elements  
to better understand the  
poet's message and craft.

