

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE
Elements of Poetry (from *Jabberwocky* and Shakespeare)

Alliteration: The repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words.

“claws that catch!”

End Rhyme Scheme: When words at the END of the lines of poetry rhyme. Similar End Rhymes are notated with the same letters of the Alphabet.

*“Twas brillig, and the slithy **toves** A
Did gyre and gimble in the **wabe**: B
All mimsy were the **borogoves**, A
And the mome raths **outgrabe**.” B*

Internal Rhyme: Rhyme that occurs within a single line.

*“So rested **he** by the Tumtum **tree**”*

Onomatopoeia: The use of words whose sounds echo their meanings.

*“Beware the **Jubjub** bird, and shun”*

Assonance: The repetition of a **Vowel** sound in two or more stressed syllables that do not end with the same consonant.

*“**A**nd, **h**as thou **s**lain the **J**abberwock?”*

Consonance: The repetition of significant **Consonant** sounds in a line of poetry.

*“**C**ome to **m**y **a**rms, **m**y **b**eamish boy!”*

Enjambment: The continuation of a sentence or idea from one line of a poem to the next.

*“The Jabberwock, **with eyes of flame**,
Came whiffing through the tulgey wood,”*

Caesura: Typically, when a line is divided by a Caesura, or pause.

*“He left it dead, **and** with its head”*

End Stopped: Punctuation at the end of a line.

“And the mome raths outgrabe.”

Stanza: A group of lines that form a unit in a poem.

*“And, as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
Came whiffling through the tulgey wood,
And burbled as it came!”*

Quatrain: A stanza that has FOUR lines. (See **Stanza** above.)

Meter: The repetition of a regular rhythmic unit in poetry; emphasizes the musical quality of language.

“One, two! One, two! And through and through”
(Da-Dum Da-Dum Da-Dum Da-Dum)

Stress Pattern: The number of **Syllables/beats** in a line of poetry. (See **Meter** above and count the “**D’s**.”
Note: Each word is only one syllable. Hence, the **Stress count** is **8**.)

Iamb: A basic metrical foot consisting of two beats, the first is a short unstressed syllable (denoted by a “u” symbol above the syllable it denotes), the second a Longer or more emphasized stressed syllable denoted by a “/” symbol above the syllable it denotes. (See the THREE iambs denoted in the famous quote by Hamlet, below:

1 - 2 - 3 (Three feet/iambs)
u / u / u /
“To be, or not to be...”

Iambic Tetrameter: A metrical line of FOUR feet, or iambs. (See the line from *Jabberwocky* in **Meter** above.

Iambic Pentameter: A metrical line of FIVE feet, or iambs. (Count the feet/iambs. There should be FIVE.)

“Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?”

Shakespeare, *Sonnet 18*