Poetry Notes

Poetry: Writing that aims to present ideas and evoke an emotional experience in the reader through the use of meter, figurative language, and imagery. Poetry is a form of creative writing that does not follow the same patterns as prose. Some poems use punctuation and capitalization in an unusual way.

Prose: ordinary speech or writing, as distinguished from verse; when written, follows conventions of print, such as sentences, paragraphs, indenting, and punctuation.

Imagery: A word or group of words in a literary work which appeal to one or more of the senses: sight, taste, touch, hearing, and smell.

Meter: The repetition of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line of poetry.

Mood: Emotions of a work or of the author.

Rhyme: Identical or very similar recurring final sounds in words usually at the end of lines of a poem. Not all poetry rhymes.

Symbolism: A device in literature where an object represents an idea.

Voice: The fluency, rhythm, and liveliness in writing that make it unique to the writer.

Alliteration: Repetition of the same sound beginning several words in sequence.

   All alligators ask annoying questions.

Metaphor: Implied comparison achieved through a figurative use of words; the word is use not in its literal sense, but in one analogous to it. Comparing two things without the use of like or as.

   Her eyes were diamonds on her face.

Simile: An explicit comparison between two things using “like” or “as.”

   She is as pretty as a picture.
Onomatopoeia: Use of words to imitate natural sounds; accommodation of sound to sense.

The jar made a loud crash as it fell. Bow-wow, tweet-tweet.

Personification: Giving human characteristics to things that are not human.

The wind sang a gentle tune. (Singing is a human quality.)

Hyperbole: Excessive exaggeration

He was so strong that he could drive a railroad spike with one blow.

Irony: A form of speech in which the real meaning is concealed or contradicted by the words used. Irony involves the perception that things are not what they are said to be or what they seem. Dramatic irony lies in the audience’s deeper perceptions of a coming fate, which contrast with the character’s perceptions.

Satire: A literary technique of writing or art which principally ridicules its subject (individuals, organizations, states) often as an intended means of provoking or preventing change.

Idiom: Using words to mean something other than their definition.

It’s raining cats and dogs. I have a green thumb.

Goal:

1. Read poetry for fun or enjoyment
2. Differentiate: Recognize the differences between two or more poems.
3. Evaluate: Examine and carefully judge poetry
4. Make inferences: A judgment based on reasoning rather than on direct statements written in the poem (read between the lines).