

## English 12 Poetry vocabulary

### **1. form (noun)**

- The metrical or stanzaic organization of poetry.

### **2. verse (noun)**

- A line of poetry.

### **3. stanza (noun)**

- An arrangement of a certain number of lines, sometimes having a fixed length, meter or rhyme scheme, forming a division of a poem.

### **4. meter (noun)**

- A basic rhythmic structure of a line or lines of verse

## 5. rhyme scheme (noun)

- A pattern of rhymes in a poem, usually marked by letters to correspondences.
- For example, an AABBA rhyme scheme:
- There was a Young Lady whose eyes, A  
Were unique as to colour and size; A  
When she opened them wide, B  
People all turned aside, B  
And started away in surprise. A

## 6. alliteration (noun)

- The occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

## 7. connotation (noun)

- An idea or meaning suggested by or associated with a word or thing:  
*Hollywood holds connotations of romance and glittering success.*
- The set of associations implied by a

word in addition to its literal meaning.

## **8. denotation (noun)**

The most specific or direct meaning of a word, in contrast to its associated meanings.

## **9. hyperbole (noun)**

- Exaggerated claims or statements not intended to be taken literally.
- An obvious exaggeration designed to leave an intended impression or effect.

## **10. cacophony (noun)**

- Harsh or discordant sound
- Harshness in the sound of words or phrases.

## **11. euphony (noun)**

- pleasing or sweet sound, *especially* the acoustic effect produced by words formed or combined to please the ear.

- A harmonious succession of words having a pleasing sound.

## **12. metonymy (noun)**

a figure of speech consisting of the use of the name of one object or concept for that of another to which it is related, or of which it is a part.

*i.e – crown = lands belonging to the monarchy.*

*The pen is mightier than the sword  
“suit” = businessman.*

## **13. litotes (noun)**

- Ironic understatement in which the affirmative is expressed by the negative or contrary.
- A figure of speech that intentionally understates something or implies it is

lesser in significance or size than it really is.

- (i.e) – “The troubles” – a name for decades of violence in Northern Ireland

## **14. cognition (noun)**

The mental process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience and the senses.

- **cognitive (adjective)**

## **15. metacognition (noun)**

- Awareness and understanding of one’s thought process; thinking about thinking.

## **16. dysphemism (noun)**

- Use of a derogatory or unpleasant term instead of a pleasant or neutral one.
- i.e. spew chunks = vomit
- i.e. old bat – elderly woman.

## **17. juxtaposition (noun)**

- the act or instance of placing close together or side by side, especially for comparison or contrast.
- i.e – the sweet, acrid taste of blood.

## **18. defunct (adjective)**

- No longer in effect or use; not operating or functioning: a defunct law; a defunct organization.
- No longer in existence; dead; extinct: a defunct person; a defunct tribe of Native Americans.

## **19. esoteric (adjective)**

Understood by or meant for only the select few who have special knowledge or interest; recondite: *poetry full of esoteric allusions.*

## **20. allusion (noun)**

- A figure of speech that makes a reference to, or representation of, a place, event, literary work, myth, or work of art, either directly or by implication.

## **21. sardonic (adjective)**

- disdainfully or skeptically humorous :  
derisively mocking

## **22. ambiguous (adjective)**

- doubtful or uncertain especially from obscurity or lack of distinction.
- capable of being understood in two or more possible senses or ways.