

Critical Terms Applied to Poetry

Most of these terms have been derived from Harmon's and Holman's *A Handbook to Literature*. They are basic poetry vocabulary that I would expect students to be familiar with and are supplemented by our specific medieval lyrics vocabulary. You should be able to find definitions of these on the Class Web Page, under *Useful Literary Terms and Definitions* or in handbooks to literature.

Accent	Decasyllabic
Alexandrine	Denotation
Alliteration	Dissonance
Anapest	Distich
Anagram	Douzain
Anaphora	Dramatic Monologue
Apostrophe	Elegy
Assonance	Elision
Ballad	End Rhyme
Ballad Stanza	End-stopped Lines
Beginning Rhyme	English Sonnet
Blank Verse	<i>Enjambement</i>
Blason	Epic
Cacaphony	Epigram
Cadence	Epithet
Caesura	Eye Rhyme
Canto	Falling Rhythm
<i>Carpe Diem</i>	Feminine Rhyme
Chiasmus	Foot
Closed Couplet	Free Verse
Conceit	Half Rhyme
Connotation	Heroic Couplet
Consonance	Hexameter
Context	Horatian Ode
Couplet	Hovering Stress
Dactyl	Hyperbole

Iamb	Pun
Iambic Pentameter	Pyrrhic
Imagery	Quatrain
Interlocking Rhyme	Refrain
Internal Rhyme	Rhyme Scheme
Irregular Ode	Rhythm
Italian Sonnet	Scansion
Litotes	Sestet
Lyric	Simile
Masculine Rhyme	Slant Rhyme
Metonymy	Spondee
Metrics	Stanza
Near Rhyme	Stress
Nonce Form	Strophe
Occasional Verse	Synecdoche
Octave	Tautology
Octet	Tetrameter
Octosyllabic Verse	Tercet
Ode	Tone
Onomatopoeia	Topos
Panegyric	Trochee
Pastoral	Versification
Poetics	Villanelle
Poet Laureate	Volta
Prelude	
Prosopopoeia	