



# I'm a poet and didn't know it!

## Definitions

**Metaphor** is a figure of speech that compares two things without using the word like or as. These things usually have something in common.

**Figurative language** is expressions that are not literally true. They create fresh and original descriptions.

**Personification** is a figure of speech in which nonhuman things (an idea, object, or animal) is given human characteristics.

**Repetition** is the use of any element of language more than once. The repetition could take place with a sound, word, phrase or grammatical structure. Repetition is used to stress important ideas and feelings and to create memorable sound effects.

**Rhythm** can follow the poet's natural voice in free verse poetry, as if the writer were speaking to the reader. In more traditional poetry, a regular rhythm is established.

**Sensory language/Imagery** appeals to the senses. It is written so that the reader can literally hear, feel, taste, touch, smell, see what the author is describing.

**Simile** is a figure of speech that compares two things, using the word like or as.

**Symbolism** is when a writer uses a concrete object to stand for an idea.

Definitions compiled from:

All Write. Kemper, Dave, Sebranek, Patrick and Meyer, Verne. Write Source. 1998

The Language of Literature. McDougal Littell. Grade 8. 1997.



# How can I make poetry more poetic?

As you write your poetry and study other authors' poetry, take a moment to notice how they make their poetry more poetic. Poetry is written differently. In a poem, how the words are arranged affects their meaning.

1. **Arrangement of words.** How the words are arranged determines how we read the words. For example, the end of a line is a prominent position, where poets often place words they wish to emphasize.
2. **Punctuation.** It's up to you. You may add or omit punctuation in the shaping of your own poems. EE Cummings often omitted punctuation of any kind.
3. **Capitalization.** Your decision too. If all lines are not capitalized, it implies the line moves on. If each line is capitalized, it implies each line has stopped and there needs to be a pause.
4. **Spacing:**
  - Use spacing within a line to make pauses between the words.
  - Place  
Words on different lines  
To show more  
Emphasis.
  - Omit spacing between letters if you need to make a statement about them being close together.
  - Space letters out if you need to.
5. **Omitting words.** You can also omit words like the, or, is. Use this if it will help make your message stronger.

# What Makes Good Poetry?