(Almost) Everything You Need to Know about POETRY

1. **Narrative poetry**: tells a story
   a. **The Ballad** – a simple narrative poem with refrain and repetition that can be spoken or sung
      i. How do we categorize a poem as a Ballad?
         1. Simple words and rhyme scheme
         2. Use of Dialogue and Repetition
         3. Often Divided into Quatrains
         4. Basic rhyme scheme with a Refrain – creates songlike quality
         5. Anonymously written (Folk Ballads, specifically)
         6. Look for Typical Rhyme Scheme – iambic tetrameter alternating with iambic trimeter
      ii. Popular Example: "Get Up and Bar the Door" (Anonymous)
   b. **Dramatic Monologue**: speaker converses with the reader as he/she reveals events
      i. Popular Example: "My Last Duchess"
   c. **Epic Poem**: a lengthy elevated poem that celebrates the exploits of a hero
      i. Popular Example: Beowulf
2. **Lyric poetry**: subjective and emotional – poems can be as simple as sensory impression ("The Red Wheelbarrow") or elevated as ode or elegy; often reflective
   a. **Ode**: type of lyric poem that addresses subjects of elevated stature – praise
      i. Popular Example: "Ode on a Grecian Urn"
   b. **Elegy**: lyric poem written in honor of one who has died
      i. Popular Example: "In Memoriam A.H.H."
   c. **Sonnet**: lyric poem with 14 lines (more notes later on Sonnets)
   d. Can also be poems written in free verse
3. **The Sonnet**
   a. **Petrarchan**
      i. Also called Italian
         1. Made up of Octave and sestet
            a. Octave:
               i. 2 Italian quatrains: abba abba
            b. Sestet
               i. rhyme pattern varies, some variant on c,d, and e
               ii. cde cde = Italian Sestet
               iii. cd cd cd = Sicilian Sestet
               iv. other variants are not named
         2. Popular Example: "On his being arrived . . ." by John Milton
   b. **Shakespearean**
      i. Also called English sonnet
         1. Contains 3 "Sicilian" quatrains: *abab cdcd efef*
         2. Ends with one heroic couplet: *gg*
      ii. Usually has question or issue in first quatrains, answered in bottom part

   iii. Popular Example: "Sonnet 138" – Shakespeare
  c. **Spenserian**
   i. Very similar to Shakespearean
   ii. Contains three Sicilian quatrains (*abab bcbc cdcd*) and one heroic couplet (*ee*)
    1. Interlocks each of the quatrains so their rhyme is connected
     a. Popular Example: "Sonnet 30" – Spenser

4. **The Villanelle**
  a. Rhyme Scheme:

<div align="center">

A1 (refrain)

b

A2 (refrain)

a

b

A1 (refrain)

a

b

A2 (refrain)

a

b

A1 (refrain)

a

b

A2 (refrain)

a

b

A1

A2 (refrain)

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Once you categorize poetry, you study it for rhythm and meter:

1. **Sound/structure**
  a. **Syllables**
  b. **Foot**
   i. basic building block composed of pattern of syllables
   ii. These patterns create a meter – pattern of beats or accents based on stressed **[/]** and unstressed **[u]** syllables in a line
   iii. five common patterns:
    1. iamb: [u /]
    2. trochee: [/ u]
    3. anapest: [u u /]
    4. dactyl: [/ u u]
    5. spondee: [/ /]

   c. **Lines**: how many feet per line
1. Monometer
2. Dimeter
3. Trimeter
4. Tetrameter
5. Pentameter
6. Hexameter
7. Heptameter
8. Octameter
9. Nonometer

   d. **Stanzas**: How lines are divided
1. a line
2. couplet
3. tercet
4. quatrain
5. cinquain
6. sestet
7. septet
8. octave

   e. Cantos

2. Poetic Devices: These are ways that author's make things a little "deeper"
   a. **Imagery**: language that appeals to the senses
      i. Visual
      ii. Auditory
      iii. Gustatory
      iv. Tactile
      v. Olfactory
      vi. Organic (internal sensation)
      vii. Kinesthetic (movement, tension in muscles and joints)
   b. **Denotation**: dictionary definition
   c. **Connotation**: emotions and ideas associated with word
   d. **Allusion**: reference to something in history or literature
   e. **Irony**: discrepancy between expectation and reality
   f. **Understatement**: a statement which means less than what is intended
   g. **Hyperbole**: a statement of exaggeration
   h. **Paradox**: an apparent contradiction that conveys truth
   i. **Simile**: direct comparison of two unlike things using like or as
   j. **Metaphor**: comparison of two unlike things
   k. **Personification**: attribution of human characteristics to a creature, idea or object
   l. **Apostrophe**: direct address to an inanimate object or idea
   m. **Symbol**: anything that has meaning of its own but also stands for something beyond itself
   n. **Tone**: attitude revealed toward the subject

3. **Poetic Vocabulary**: make sure you can define and use these words to analyze poems
    a. Asyndeton
    b. Polysyndeton
    c. Enjambment
    d. Litote
    e. Internal rhyme
    f. Dialect
    g. Metonymy
    h. Synecdoche
    i. Antipophora
    j. Anaphora
    k. Oxymoron

4. **Analysis**
    a. Utilize **poetic devices** to understand meaning and purpose
    b. Utilize **poetic structure** to find depth in the poem
    c. Interpret the different layers of a poem and how it can be interpreted:
        1. Literally
        2. Philosophically
        3. Religiously
        4. Politically
        5. Sexually