

ENGLISH 9 AND 10
POETIC AND LITERARY TERMS

Term	Definition
Alliteration	The repetition of consonant sounds in a line or lines of poetry. It is the first letter of each word and usually it is words that all come in a row or are separated by a small words such as a, the, it or are. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: Good, green grass is great
Allusion	A reference to a famous literary, mythological, religious or historical figure, character or person. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: He met his Waterloo – is a reference to the French general Napoleon who lost the battle of Waterloo and met with defeat
Antagonist	A character that works in opposition to the central character or protagonist.
Apostrophe	Speaking directly to something which cannot answer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: O wild West Wind, thou breath of Autumn's being Speaking to an absent person as though he or she were present. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: Grandmother, why did you have to die?
Aside	Words spoken in a play for the audience to hear, but supposed not to be heard by the other characters.
Assonance	The repetition of vowel sounds in a line or lines of poetry, somewhat like alliteration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: <u>Our</u> <u>e</u>choes <u>roll</u> from <u>soul</u> to <u>soul</u>
Atmosphere	The mood or a feeling produced by a work.
Audience	The people being addressed by the literary work.
Bias	Prejudice in favour of or against one thing, person or group compared with another – sometimes in a manner which is possibly unfair to one of the individuals or groups.
Character	A fictional person in a literary work who may be either purely imaginary or based upon someone real. Characters can be of the following types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flat: have only one quality or character trait; are one-sided; they always act the same way Round: have different, even contradictory traits; are more like real people Static: do not change; flat, round, stock characters can all be static Dynamic: change or grow in some way – for good or bad, they are altered by events and by their own actions and choices Stereotypes/Stock: are like flat characters, except that stock characters have been used over and over again and are instantly recognizable Foil: used as a contrast to the main character or protagonist; the difference between the foil and the main character emphasizes the main character's qualities; the foil is used for indirect characterization
Characterization	A method of presenting a character's qualities in literature. There are two types of characterization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct Presentation: through the author's direct comments about the character. The author can comment through the narrator or another character Indirect Presentation: through what the character says, does, thinks and how he/she reacts. The reader is left to infer from these details what the character is like.
Cliché	A worn-out expression which has lost its vitality (and sometimes its original meaning); it can sometimes be used successfully for humorous purposes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: She was as busy as a bee and as strong as an ox.
Comic Relief	A moment of comedy used to relieve the tension for the audience or reader in an otherwise serious or tragic piece of literature.
Conflict	The struggle between opposing forces. There are three principle types of conflict: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person vs. Person Person vs. Self Person vs. Environment
Connotation	An idea or feeling which a word evokes for a person in addition to its literal or primary meaning.
Denotation	The explicit or direct meaning of a word – these are the meanings listed in dictionaries.
Dialect	A form of speech peculiar to a particular region, often including non-standard vocabulary, pronunciation or grammar.
Dialogue	A conversation, in written form between characters in a literary work.
Diction	The manner of clearly pronouncing vowels and consonants in speaking as well as the choice of words or phrases in speech or in writing.
Dilemma	A situation in which a character must make a difficult choice between two disagreeable alternatives. Dilemmas can be used to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate suspense Reveal character

Euphemism	Calling a harsh or unpleasant thing or fact by a more pleasant or acceptable substitute. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: "passed away" or "no longer in the land of the living" = dead
Figurative Language	Language that is used in a way that is different from the usual literal meaning, in order to create a particular mental image. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: She exploded with rage.
Flashback	A scene in a literary work that is set in a time earlier than the main action.
Foreshadowing	A technique whereby an event or incident is indicated beforehand when the author includes hints or clues about the main events of a story.
Hyperbole	Using deliberate, extreme exaggeration for emphasis.
Idiom	A group of words established by usage and having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: Down in the dumps.
Image/imagery	A word or sequence of words that refer to, or engage a sensory experience. An image or several images (imagery) always appeal to one or more of the senses (taste, smell, touch, see, hear). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: The soft breeze caressed her face – appeals to the sense of touch
Irony	Reveals concealed or contradictory meanings. There are three types of irony: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal Irony: the contrast between what is said and what is meant Dramatic Irony: the contrast between what a character thinks to be true and what the reader knows to be true (the reader knows more than the character) Situational Irony: the contrast between what happens and what was expected to happen
Literal Language	Language in which words are taken in their usual primary sense without metaphor or allegory.
Metaphor	A form of figurative language that makes a comparison by stating that two items are the same – that one is the other. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: He was a roaring lion. She was a snake in the grass.
Metaphor - Extended	A metaphor that is extended through an entire poem or a large section of a literary work.
Monologue	A literary form: an oral or written composition in which only one person speaks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interior Monologue: conversation-like thoughts of a character
Mood	A state of mind or feeling the reader gets when reading a piece of literature.
Narrator	The narrator is the storyteller.
Onomatopoeia	When the written or spoken word imitates a noise or a sound. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: Boom, Crash, Bang, Splat
Oxymoron	Two apparently contradictory words used together. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: feather of lead cold fire deafening silence
Paradox	An apparently contradictory statement – generally understood within the context of a poem or other literary work.
Personification	A figure of speech in which a non-human thing is given human attributes or qualities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: the flowers danced in the wind – only humans can dance
Plot	The sequence of events in a story and the reasons given for those events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prologue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A preface or introduction to a literary work Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How a story begins Rising Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The events leading to the climax Climax: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The event or point of greatest intensity or interest – the most exciting part of the story Denouement/Falling Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The resolution on plot conflict in a literary work Resolution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The solution to any conflict or question in a literary work Indeterminate Ending: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A story which has no clear resolution when it concludes Epilogue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A concluding part of a literary work – often provides information about what the characters are doing a year or more after the principle story has ended
Point of View	The angle from which the action takes place. There are four main perspectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective Point of View: The story is told without telling any characters' thoughts and feelings. Only the characters' actions and words are told. Objective narrators only know what they can record. This type of writing can produce a film like effect. First Person Point of View: The story is told by one of the characters in the story ("I"). The narrator is in the story but only knows what they themselves think, feel, do, see and

	<p>hear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Person Limited Point of View: The story is told through the eyes of one or more characters ("he", "she", "they"). The narrator is outside the story and tells what the character think, feel and do. A limited omniscient narrator only knows about one character and the things that that one character knows, thinks, feels and does. • Third Person Omniscient Point of View: The story is told through the eyes of one or more characters ("he", "she", "they"). The narrator is outside the story and tells what the characters think, feel and do. Omniscient narrators know about everything that happens and what any character thinks and feels.
Protagonist	A central character, whose actions are the main focus of attention and represent a struggle against opposing forces.
Pun	A humorous expression that depends on a double meaning, either between different senses of the same word or between two similar-sounding words.
Purpose	The reason for which something is done or made, or for which it exists.
Repetition	When words are repeated in a literary work to add emphasis.
Setting	The place and time in which the story takes place.
Simile	A figure of speech in which there is a direct statement of the similarity between two items, usually through the use of a word such as like, as or than. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: My <u>love</u> is <u>like</u> a <u>red, red rose</u>.
Speaker	The person from whose point of view the poem is being presented – not necessarily the poet
Suspense	A quality that arouses excited expectation about the outcome of an event or the story itself.
Symbol	A symbol is something that stands for, or represents something else.
Theme	The central thought or idea of the literary work.
Tone	The cast of voice that reveals the speaker's or writer's attitude to the audience.

ENGLISH 9 AND 10 TYPES OF POEMS AND GENRE

Types of Poems

Type	Definition
Ballad	A narrative poem usually containing much repetition and often a repeated refrain. Ballads were originally folk songs passed on from age to age. Ballads often tell of a single dramatic episode.
Blank Verse	Poetry that is written in unrhymed iambic pentameter
Didactic	A form of a poem which has as its primary intention the teaching of some lesson or moral or the making of some critical statement about society.
Dramatic Monologue	A lyric poem in which the speaker addresses his or her words to someone who is present but silent. The speaker becomes a character in a dramatic situation and his or her words, which are spoken at a decisive or revealing moment, give some insight into the speaker.
Elegy	A formal poem, often written as a lament for a departed friend or respected person. The poet gives his or her ideas about death or some other serious subject.
Epic	A long narrative poem, which tells of the adventures of heroic characters, covers a long period of time or describes some monumental task. Often in an epic poem supernatural forces play a part in the action. Epic poems are usually very, very long.
Epigram	A short, concise poem which summarizes some valuable truth. Usually, the poem leads up to a sudden twist or witty turn of thought in the last lines and though often humorous, some epigrams are serious.
Epitaph	Written in memory of someone who has died. Epitaphs are found often on tombstones.
Free Verse	Poetry that is free of metre and other conventions of formal poetry.
Limerick	A humorous, five line poem, with a fixed rhyme scheme (aabba). Limericks usually tell of the actions of a person and are meant to be funny.
Lyric	A short poem expressing the internal and emotional thoughts of a single speaker. Lyrics are usually an expression of the poet's feelings about a person, object, event or idea. The intent of a lyric is usually to create a single, unified impression for the reader. Lyrics originated as songs.
Narrative	A poem that tells a story and organizes its action according to a sequence of time. Narratives are usually longer poems.
Ode	A poem on an exalted theme, expressed in dignified, sincere language, serious in tone and usually in praise of something or somebody.
Parody	A poem written in a humorous imitation of another poem. Usually, the parody imitates the tone,

	form and imagery of the original, but applies them to some ridiculous object.
Pastoral	Poetry that portrays country life in a romantic or idealized manner.
Soliloquy	Poetry or text in which the speaker is talking alone regardless of hearers. Soliloquies are found most often in drama.
Sonnet	<p>A lyric poem of fourteen lines in one of two fixed rhyme schemes. The two principle types of sonnets are the Italian (Petrarchan) and the English (Shakespearean).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italian Sonnet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Also known as the Petrarchan ○ Is divided into two parts: an eight line section (octave) rhymed abba abba and a six-line section (sestet) rhymed cdc cdc or cde cde ○ Often the octave states a problem or a question and the sestet offers a solution • English Sonnet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Also known as the Shakespearean ○ Usually has three four-line sections, each with its own rhyme scheme and ends in a two-line rhymed couplet ○ The rhyme scheme is usually abab cdcd efef gg ○ The final couplet is usually a concluding statement commenting on the preceding thoughts

Genre

Autobiography	A published and personal account of one's own life.
Biography	A published account of a person's life written by another.
Comedy	A literary work whose primary intention is to be humorous, and to amuse and entertain the reader. Comedies often have a happy ending.
Escapist	A type of literature that exemplifies a desire to avoid reality. It is written purely for entertainment.
Fable	A tale, often with animals as characters, meant to convey a moral.
Fantasy	A literary work which is highly imaginative and often involves fantastic stories, often in a magical pseudo-historical setting.
Farce	A coarsely comic dramatic work based on ludicrously improbable events.
Interpretive	A type of literature that is written to broaden, deepen and sharpen our awareness of life.
Legend	A traditional story sometimes popularly regarded as historical but not proven to be true.
Melodrama	A sensational dramatic piece with crude appeals to the emotions and usually with a happy ending.
Mystery	A fictional work dealing with a puzzling event. Mystery fiction is usually characterized by a horrible crime being committed followed by its solution by a character skilled in detective work.
Myth	A traditional narrative usually involving supernatural or imaginary persons and embodying popular ideas on natural or social phenomena.
Parody	A literary work in which there is an imitation of the style of a particular writer, artist, genre or person with deliberate exaggeration for comic effect.
Romance	A fictional work dealing with a love relationship, usually idealized, between two characters. Romances usually have happy endings in which all previous problems in the relationship are solved and the characters live happily ever after.
Satire	A literary work in which humour, irony, exaggeration or ridicule is used to expose or criticize.
Science Fiction	A fictional work based on imagined future scientific or technological advances or major social or environmental changes, frequently portraying space or time travel or life on other planets.
Stream of Consciousness	A literary style in which the author's or character's thoughts and conscious reactions to events are perceived in a continuous, uninterrupted flow.
Tragedy	A fictional work characterized by an event that causes great suffering, destruction and distress. The protagonist of a tragic work is usually flawed and it is that flaw that leads to the tragic event.

**ENGLISH 9 AND 10
VERSIFICATION**

Term	Definition
Verse	A poem or piece of poetry.
Versification	The art of making verse. Versification is either formal or informal (free verse). Formal versification employs metre and a regular line length. Each formal line is named according to its length.
Blank Verse	Unrhymed iambic pentameter
Free Verse	A verse that is free of metre and other conventions of formal poetry.
Rhyme	The repetition of final vowels or of a combination of final vowels and consonants in words at the end of, or within, lines of verse.
Rhyme Scheme	The pattern of rhyme within a fixed verse form or stanza. Usually denoted by letters of the alphabet.
Rhythm	The flow of language in either free or measured form. Rhythm in verse is arranged in either formal or informal patterns.
Refrain	A repeated verse line, usually at the end of a stanza.
Stanza	Lines of verse may be composed in verse paragraphs or they may be organized into formal units called stanzas. Each stanza provides the reader with a division mark.
Couplet	A pair of rhyming verse lines
Quatrain	A four-line form with a variety of rhyme schemes; the quatrain is the most familiar stanza in English
Sestet	A group or stanza of six lines
Octave	A group or stanza of eight lines

**ENGLISH 9 AND 10
KEY WORDS**

Term	Definition
Assess	Estimate the value of something based on some criteria; present an informed judgement.
Compare	Describe how the elements or qualities of one event, issue, or character are similar to those of another. Often used in conjunction with "contrast."
Contrast	Describe how the elements or qualities of one event, issue, or character are different from those of another.
Describe	Give a detailed or graphic account of an object, event, or concept.
Discuss	Present the various points of view in a debate or argument; engage in written discourse on a particular topic, process, or concept.
Evaluate	Use criteria or standards to make judgements about the strengths and weaknesses of a position on a particular issue.
Explain	Give an account of a topic, process, or concept, providing evidence and reasons.
To What Extent	Advance arguments in favour of a position or point of view and respond to or take into account arguments opposed to that position or point of view.
Formal language	Language following all proper conventions; appropriate for written work.
Informal language	Language following most proper conventions; often used in speech.

Colloquial language	Informal language often containing idioms.
Slang	Colloquial language often using words in new ways, usually used by a particular group, and often short-lived.
Jargon	Special vocabulary of a particular group or activity. Sometimes used for confusing or unintelligible language.
Biography	A story of one's life.
Autobiography	A person telling his/her own life's story.
Case Study	An analysis of a particular person and his/her situation as it exemplifies some point or fact.
Infographics	The representations of information in a graphic format designed to make the data easily understandable at a glance.
Hypertext	A method of storing data through a computer program that allows a user to create and link fields of information at will and to retrieve the data nonsequentially.
Icons	A picture, image, or other representation.
Narrative	Telling a story.
Descriptive	Describing
Expository	Explaining
Persuasive/argumentative	Persuading or arguing
Objective language	Language free of emotion or bias.
Subjective language	Language including emotion and/or bias.
Propaganda	Language intended to elicit only one way of thinking.
Thesis	Controlling idea or point of a piece of writing.
Expert testimony	Information provided by experts to make or support a point.
Statistical evidence	Statistics provided to make or support a point.
Anecdotal evidence	Subjective evidence given to make or support a point.
Cause and effect	Evidence given to prove a causal relationship between events.
Pros and cons	Providing points both for and against an idea.