

Structure - The Blueprint of Poetry 2/2

Any probe of poetry will result in the reader observing that poems are generally classified as follows based on their structure/form:

1. **Ballad**: narrative with four-line stanzas/verses and a simple regular rhyme scheme (this type maintains the same sing-song pattern throughout);
2. **Sonnet**: 14-line poem traditionally centred around love;
 - three **quatrains** (4 lines) and a final **couplet** (2 lines) or an English (**Shakespearean**) sonnet; or
 - an **octave** (8 lines) followed by a **sestet** (6 lines) or an Italian (**Petrarchan**) sonnet;
3. **Free-verse**: a poem that does not have regular line lengths, regular stanza forms or end rhymes;
 - they can have **no** rhyme with regular stanzas; or
 - they can have **some** rhyme and/or regular stanzas.

When one reads a poem, initially the reader tries to apply a **rhythm** to the work. This relates to the **series of stressed and unstressed syllables** that are found in each line. Coupled with the perceived rhythm is what some critics will refer to as tone (the manner in which something is said), which gives some indication of the writer's attitude and mood. One can then get a sense of if a speaker is happy, sad or disturbed based on his or her tone.

Due to the fact that poetry is intended to be read aloud, the reader is called upon to appreciate the pleasant sounds that are associated. This is further enhanced by the **rhyming** of end letters in sentences. Rhymes conjure up a sense of order and they allegedly help readers to recall information. Consider the ballads or love songs that bombard the airwaves. As a result of these intricate poetic features, we learn to appreciate, fall in love with and are motivated by them. Further probing reveals that the use of literary devices helps a writer to coin catchy expressions for mass appeal. So depending on how language is manipulated, several images and messages could be conveyed.

Again, we encounter a happy marriage between sight and sound!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0PjEntMdpw&feature=emb_logo