Poetry Terms

1. poetry—a type of literature in which language, images, sound, and rhythm are combined
   Poetry is...compact, musical, imaginative

2. meter—a regular pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables that give a line of poetry a predictable rhythm

3. rhythm—the pattern created by the arrangement of stressed and unstressed syllables

4. stanza—a group of lines forming a unit in a poem. Stanzas are like paragraphs.

5. rhyme scheme—the pattern formed by the end rhyme of the poem. The rhyme scheme is shown by the use of a different letter of the alphabet to name each new rhyme (see limerick for example)

6. alliteration—the repetition of consonant sounds, most often at the beginning of words and syllables.
   Ex) struck out by a steed flying fearless and fleet
7. **metaphor**—a type of figurative language that compares seemingly unlike things. A metaphor implies the connection instead of stating it directly.

8. **simile**—a type of figurative language that uses *like* or *as* to compare seemingly unlike things

9. **imagery**—language that emphasizes sense impressions that help the reader to see (*the shiny red lights*), hear (*the high-pitched squeal*), feel (*the prickly velcro poked my fingers*), smell (*the sweet aroma of cinnamon*) and taste (*the sour lemon puckered my lips*) things described in the work

10. **symbol**—one thing that represents another. Symbols are sometimes used in metaphors.

11. **refrain**—lines or a phrase that are repeated. Refrains usually occur at the end of a stanza.
12. **repetition**—the same images, sounds, words, or lines are used more than once to create an effect

13. **ballad**—a short, song-like poem that tells a story

14. **lyric poetry**—poems that express thought or emotion about a subject

15. **narrative poetry**—tells a story; it has characters, a plot with a conflict, and a setting

16. **haiku**—a Japanese form of unrhymed poetry that has three lines and 17 syllables (5, 7, 5)

   If things were better for me, flies, I’d invite you to share my supper.

17. **couplet**—two consecutive lines of rhymed poetry

18. **free verse**—poetry that has no fixed pattern of meter, rhyme, line length, or stanza arrangement
19. **cinquain**—a five-line poem with 22 syllables, divided in a set pattern

   - Line 1 noun (2 syllables)
   - Line 2 two adjectives (4)
   - Line 3 three verbs (6)
   - Line 4 describe or show feelings (8)
   - Line 5 another word for subject (2)

20. **quatrain**—a poem or stanza containing four lines (most have an *abab* rhyme scheme)

21. **concrete poem**—a poem that takes the shape of its subject (for example, a poem about a tree would be shaped like a tree)

22. **limerick**—a light, usually humorous poem with a regular rhythm, pattern, and rhyme scheme

   There was an old man from **Peru**  
   Who dreamed he was eating his **shoe**.  
   He woke in a **fright**  
   In the mid of the **night**  
   And found it was perfectly **true**!  

23. **hyperbole**—a figure of speech that uses exaggeration to express strong emotion, make a point, or create humor

   Example: I died laughing.
24. **onomatopoeia**—the use of a word or phrase that actually imitates or suggests the sound of what it describes.

Examples: splat, squish, pop, ooze

25. **personification**—a figure of speech in which human qualities are given to an animal, object, or idea.

Examples: The tree knew me well.
             Death peered over my shoulder.
             Fear grabbed her tightly.

26. **conflict**—the struggle taking place within the plot. It may be internal (for example, man against his conscience) or external (for example, a man against an animal)