

An illustration of a young girl with long brown hair tied in a ponytail with a purple flower, wearing a pink dress. She is standing in a room, looking out a large window at a snowy forest. The window is covered in snowflakes. On the windowsill, there are several books and a small plant. To the left, there is a chalkboard with a drawing of a person and some papers.

WITH
JIM SOTO

Poetry: Form & Elements

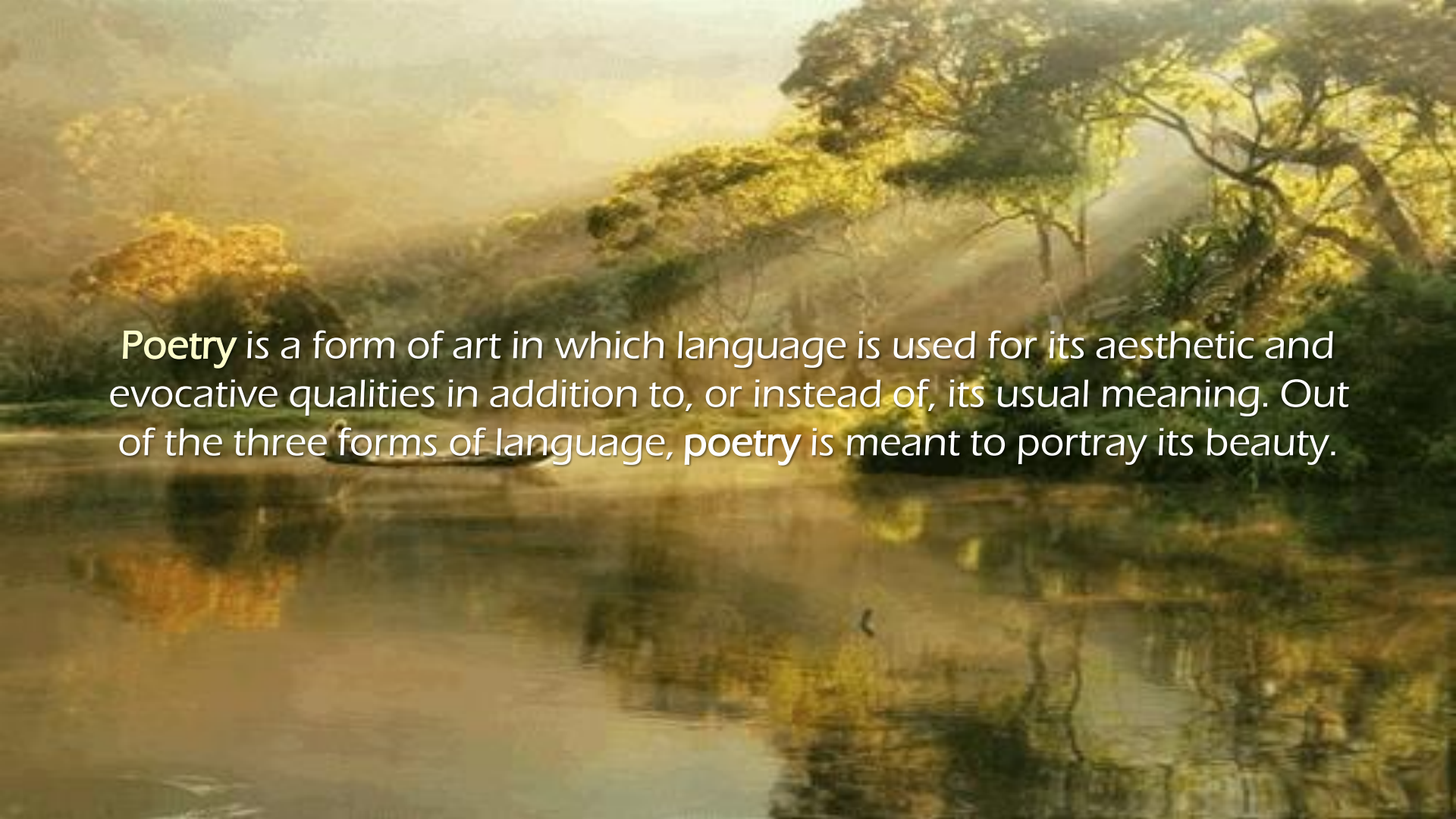
UNIT 3 What We Keep Poetry Connection

A STEM school

FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL

Home of the Space Generation



A serene landscape featuring a calm river or lake in the foreground, reflecting the surrounding greenery and a small boat. The background is filled with lush trees and a soft, hazy atmosphere, suggesting a peaceful natural setting. The text is overlaid on the middle of the image.

Poetry is a form of art in which language is used for its aesthetic and evocative qualities in addition to, or instead of, its usual meaning. Out of the three forms of language, **poetry** is meant to portray its beauty.

THE FORM OF POETRY

The word “poem” comes from the Greek word *poíma*, which means “work,” and is derived from *poieín*, “to make.” Poetry uses imaginative and musical language to communicate experiences, thoughts, or emotions. Of all the literary forms, it packs the most meaning into the fewest words.

Because poetry is often arranged in lines and stanzas and not sentences and paragraphs, it has more freedom than prose in its ordering of words.

There are different types of poetry. One thing that poems have in common is their precision; each word of a poem is carefully chosen to convey a tone, viewpoint, and perception of an object or an experience.

Some type include:

- Lyric poems
- Odes
- Elegies
- Ballads
- & Haiku



THE ELEMENTS OF POETRY



Speaker

The speaker of a poem is the person who speaks in, or narrates, the poem—the voice assumed by the writer. The speaker and the writer of the poem are not the same person. Since the speaker is the voice of the poem, the voice sets the tone.



Tone

Is the emotional attitude toward the reader or toward the subject implied by a poem. Examples of different tones include familiar, ironic, playful, sad, serious, sincere or any other emotion you can think of.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Figurative language

Is that which is meant to be understood figuratively instead of literally. It's used in all types of writing but is especially common in poetry. We already saw:

Metaphor

A figure of speech which involves an implied comparison between two relatively unlike things using a form of be. The comparison is not announced by like or as.





Simile

A figure of speech which involves a direct comparison between two unlike things, usually with the words **like** or **as**.

Personification

Is a figure of speech in which an animal, a thing, a force of nature, or an idea is described as if it were human or is given human qualities.

THE SIGHTS OF POETRY

In order to help you share their experiences of the world, poets must create **images**. They hope these images will unlock parts of your memory and stir your imagination. They hope you can gain insights about the meaning of the poem. Pictures evoked in poems are '**imagery**'.





Imagery

Are the "pictures" which we perceive with our mind's eyes, ears, nose, tongue, skin, and through which we experience the "world" created by poetic language. Most of the image-making or sensory words in a language appeal to the five human senses. These are:

- sight (visual images)
- touch (tactile)
- sound (auditory)
- taste (gustatory)
- smell (olfactory)

THE SOUNDS OF POETRY

Poets use many techniques to make music out of words. The common sound effects used in poetry are also used in the songs you hear. Poetry often uses certain devices to achieve musical effects. These can evoke emotional responses. The most important one is called **rhythm**.



Rhythm

The pattern of beats, or stresses, in a line of poetry is called rhythm. Rhythm can be regular or irregular. A regular rhythmic pattern is called a **meter**. Typically, stressed syllables are marked with a [/] and unstressed syllables with a [∨]. Lets look at a poem with meter.

WITH METER

Three Rings for the Elven Kings

by J R R Tolkien

Three Rings for the Elven-Kings under the sky
Seven for the Dwarf-lords in their halls of stone
Nine for Mortal Men doomed to die
One for the Dark Lord on his dark throne
In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie
One Ring to rule them all. One Ring to find them.
One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them.
In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie.

Rhyme

Some forms of poetry use the repetition of sounds at the ends of words to create rhyme, as in day and away. Different types include:

- Internal rhyme is rhyme that occurs within lines; end rhyme is rhyme that occurs at the ends of lines.
- Slant rhyme, or near rhyme, is the use of words that do not rhyme exactly but have a similar sound, as in rave and rove or rot and rock.
- Rhyme scheme is the pattern of end rhyme designated by assigning a different letter of the alphabet to each rhyme, for example, *abab*.

Free verse

Until late in the 19th century all English poetry was written with a strict concern for meter. Some poets began to rebel against this established way and insisted in creating new “rhythm” in order to create new moods. Meter was thus abandoned. Free verse was embraced.

Free verse is a term describing various styles of poetry that are not written using strict meter or rhyme, but that rather sound like prose but still are recognizable as poetry by virtue of complex patterns of one sort or another that readers will perceive to be part of a coherent whole. Lets look at a free verse poem.

The Bagel
by David Ignatow

FREE VERSE

I stopped to pick up the bagel
rolling away in the wind,
annoyed with myself
for having dropped it
as if it were a portent.
Faster and faster it rolled,
with me running after it
bent low, gritting my teeth,
and I found myself doubled over
and rolling down the street
head over heels, one complete somersault
after another like a bagel
and strangely happy with myself.

OTHER DEVICES USED INCLUDE...

Alliteration

The repetition of initial sounds in neighboring words. It's also the matching or repetition of consonants. Example: The **p**ompey **p**ipped at the **P**ost as **P**ippo **p**ounces.

Onomatopoeia

A type of word that sounds like the thing it describes. Words such as "buzz," "crash," "clang", "hiss," "purr," "squeak," and "boom" do this.



ASSESSMENT

1. What is the purpose of poetry as one of the forms of a language?
2. Which are poetic equivalents for sentences and paragraphs?
3. How can poets create imagery?
4. What is the poet's purpose in using imagery?
5. What is the difference between rhythm and rhyme?
6. Contrast internal with end rhyme.
7. How are poems written in meter different from those written in free verse?
8. What is alliteration? onomatopoeia?



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