

AP English Vocabulary Test

Packet 1 – Literary Terms

Apostrophe	an address to someone not present, or to a personified object or idea
Caricature	a portrait (verbal or otherwise) that exaggerates a facet of personality
Conceit, controlling image	Conceit – refers to a startling or unusual metaphor (comparing two unlike objects with powerful effect), or to a metaphor developed and expanded upon over several lines (extended metaphor).
	Controlling image – when the image dominates and shapes the entire work
Couplet	a pair of lines that end in rhyme
Diction, syntax	Diction – author's choice of words
	syntax – the ordering and structuring of the words
Dramatic irony	when the audience knows something that the characters in the drama do not
Enjambment	the continuation of a syntactic unit from one line or couplet of a poem to the next with no pause.
Foreshadowing	An event or statement in a narrative that suggests, in miniature, a large event that comes later
Hyperbole	exaggeration or deliberate overstatement
Irony	an undertow of meaning, sliding against the literal meaning of the words; it insinuates/ suggest/hints something bad
Metaphor and simile	Metaphor – a comparison or analogy that states one thing is another.
	Simile – just like a metaphor but often uses <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> to make a direct comparison.
Objectivity and Subjectivity	Objectivity – objective treatment of a subject matter is an impersonal or outside view of events.
	Subjectivity – subjective treatment uses the interior or personal view of a single observer and is typically colored with that observer's emotional responses
Opposition	A pair of elements that contrasts sharply – a pairing of images (or settings or appeals, etc.), whereby each becomes more striking and informative because it's placed in contrast to the other one. It creates mystery and tension.
Paradox	A situation of statement that seems to contradict itself, but on close inspection, does not.
Personification	Giving an inanimate object human qualities or form.

Point of view	Omniscient narrator – a 3 rd person narrators who sees, like God, into each character’s mind and understands all the action going on
	Limited omniscient narrator – a 3 rd person narrator who generally only reports what one character (usually the main character) sees, and who only reports the thoughts of the one privileged character
	Objective, or camera-eye, narrator – a 3 rd person narrator who only reports what would be visible to a camera. They do not know what the character is thinking unless the character speaks of it.
	1st person narrator – Narrator is a character in the story and tells the tale from his or her point of view. They can be unreliable.
	The stream of consciousness technique – Like the 1 st person narration but, instead of the character telling the story, the author places the reader inside the main character’s head and makes the reader privy to all of the character’s thoughts as they scroll their consciousness.
Protagonist	The main character of a novel or play.
Satire	Exposes common character flaws to the cold light of humor. Satire attempts to improve things by pointing out people’s mistakes in the hope that once exposed, such behavior will become less common.
Stanza	A group of lines in verse, roughly analogous in function to the paragraph in prose
Symbolism	A device in literature where an objects represents an idea
Theme	The main idea of the overall work; the central idea. It is the topic of discourse or discussion.

Types of Poems

Type of Poem	Examples
Lyric – subjective, reflective poetry with regular rhyme scheme and meter which reveals the poet's thoughts and feeling to create a single, unique impression	Dramatic Monologue – speaker tells the audience about a dramatic moment in his/her life and, in doing so, reveals his/her character
	Idyll – describes the life of the shepherd in pastoral, bucolic, idealistic terms
Narrative – nondramatic, objective verse with regular rhyme scheme and meter which relates a story or narrative	Epic – a long, dignified narrative poem which gives the account of a hero important to his nation or race
	Ballad – tells a story to be sung or recited. The folk ballad is anonymously handed down, while the literary ballad has a single author
Sonnet – a rigid 14-line verse form, with variable structure and rhyme scheme according to type	Shakespearean(English) – in iambic pentameter
	Italian (Petrarchan)
Ode – elaborate lyric verse which deals seriously with a dignified theme	
Blank verse – unrhymed lines of iambic pentameter	
Free verse – unrhymed lines without regular rhythm	
Elegy – a poem of lament, meditating on the death of an individual	
Villanelle – a French verse form, strictly calculated to appear simple and spontaneous	
Light verse – a general category of poetry written to entertain such as lyric poetry, epigrams, and limericks. It can have a serious side, as in parody or satire.	
Haiku – Japanese verse in 3 lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables, often depicting a delicate image.	
Limerick – humorous, nonsense-verse in 5 lines	

Some rhyme Vocab

- Masculine rhyme – only the last, accented syllable of the rhyming words correspond exactly in sound; **most common kind of end rhyme(rhyme at ends of verse lines; most common rhyme form)**
- Feminine rhyme – two consecutive syllables of the rhyming words correspond; double rhyme
- Assonance – repetition of two or more vowel sounds within a line
- Consonance – repetition of two or more consonant sounds within a line.
- Alliteration – repetition of one or more initial sounds, usually consonants, in words within a line
- Euphony – use of compatible, harmonious sounds to produce a pleasing, melodious effect
- Cacophony – use of inharmonious sounds in close conjunction for effect; opposite of euphony

Some Poetic devices and Figurative language Vocab

- Metonymy – substitution of a word which relates to the object or person to be named, in place of the name itself such as: “The **serpent** that did sting thy father’s life now ears his crown” referring to Claudius who acted snake-like.
- Synecdoche – a figure of speech in which a part represent the whole object or idea – ex. “Not a hair perished” (person)
- Litotes – form of an understatement in which the negative of an antonym is used to achieve emphasis and intensity
- Irony
 - Verbal – mean one thing, say other
 - Situational – reality of situation differs from anticipated or intended result; when something unexpected occurs
- Imagery – use of words to represent things, actions, or ideas by sensory description
- Oxymoron – contradictory terms brought together to express a paradox for strong effect.
- Allusion – a reference to an outside fact, event, or other source such as famous people and Greek gods.

Aspects of Poetry

1. Tone – author’s attitude toward his/her audience and subject
– can determine through subtle, consistent clues throughout poem
2. Theme – author’ major idea or meaning
3. Dramatic Situation – the circumstances of the speaker