Poetry II

AP English Literature and Composition · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
interpretation /ɪnˌtɜːprɪˈteɪʃn/	Give your own **interpretation** of the poem.
closed form	A **closed form** poem follows fixed rules of rhyme and line length.
stanza	A **stanza** is a group of lines in a poem.
metre	The poem's **metre** gives it a steady beat.
rhyme	"Cat" and "hat" **rhyme**. "Cat" "hat"
open form	An **open form** poem has no fixed rhyme or rhythm.
repetition /ˌrepəˈtɪʃn/	Avoid **repetition**: do not use the same word again and again.
end rhyme	An **end rhyme** comes at the end of two lines.
speaker /ˈspiːkə/	The **speaker** of a poem is the voice that talks in it.
literal meaning	The **literal meaning** of "a broken heart" is a damaged organ. "a broken heart"
connotation /kɒnəˈteɪʃn/	The **connotation** of "home" includes warmth and safety. "home"
figurative reading	A **figurative reading** looks beyond the literal words.
descriptive words	**Descriptive words** help the reader see the scene.
hyperbole /haɪˈpɜːbəli/	"I've told you a million times" is **hyperbole**. "I've told you a million times"

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Word	Example
understatement /ˌʌndə'steɪtmənt/	Calling a hurricane “a bit windy” is an **understatement**.
image /'ɪmɪdʒ/	The **image** of a burning candle suggests a short life.
sensory imagery	**Sensory imagery** appeals to the five senses.
symbolism /'sɪmbəlɪzəm/	The writer uses **symbolism**: the dove stands for peace.
metaphor /'metəfɔː/	“Time is a thief” is a **metaphor**.
extended metaphor /ek'stendɪd 'metəfɔː/	An **extended metaphor** continues through many lines.
personification /pɜːˌsɒnɪfɪ'keɪʃən/	“The wind whispered” is **personification**.
allusion	The title is an **allusion** to a Bible story.
thesis /'θiːsɪs/	Your **thesis** states your main argument.
textual evidence	Use **textual evidence** from the poem to support your point.
literary device	A metaphor is one **literary device**.
line of reasoning /laɪn ɒv 'riːzənɪŋ/	The **line of reasoning** is the chain of ideas leading to your thesis.
commentary /'kɒməntri/	Your **commentary** explains how the quotation supports your point.
paraphrase /'pærəfreɪz/	A **paraphrase** puts a line into your own words.

“a bit windy”

“Time is a thief”

“The wind whispered”

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Word	Example
⇄ **transitional element**	A **transitional element** like “however” links ideas. “however”

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