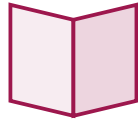


Poetry I

AP English Literature ■ Unit 2

AP English Literature



Poetry I

What we will cover

- 1 What Textual Details Reveal About a Character
- 2 The Function of Structure in a Text
- 3 The Function of Contrasts Within a Text
- 4 The Function of Specific Words and Phrases
- 5 The Function of a Simile
- 6 The Function of a Metaphor

1

What Textual Details Reveal About a Character

What Textual Details Reveal About a Character

Unit 2 is the course's first poetry unit, and it adds two things to Unit 1's toolkit: **structure** as an object of analysis, and **figurative language** 比喻性语言 handled precisely rather than by name-dropping.

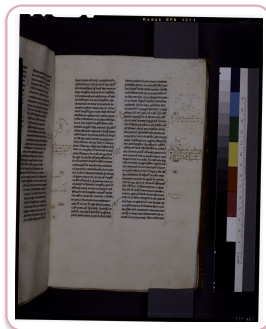
One addition on character first: **characters reveal their perspectives and biases** 视角与偏见 through **the words they use, the details they provide, and the details they omit** 略去的细节.

2

The Function of Structure in a Text

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- **Line and stanza breaks** 行与诗节的断开 contribute to the development and relationship of ideas in a poem.
- **The arrangement of lines and stanzas** contributes to that development.
- A text's structure **affects readers' reactions and expectations** by presenting the relationships among ideas.



a page with its own marginal commentary

Structure, by what it does to a reader

THE CHOICE	WHAT IT DOES	WHERE TO LOOK
a break — stanza, chapter, section	forces a pause, and separates what it divides	the line either side of the gap
a turn	revalues everything already read	a conjunction, a shift of tense or address
a frame — a story inside a story	puts a teller between you and the event	the return to the outer voice
repetition with a difference	makes the difference the meaning	the second and third occurrences

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3

The Function of Contrasts Within a Text

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This is the most reliable route into an unseen poem. Find the shift – a *but*, a stanza break, a change of tense or address – and the poem divides into a before and an after. What changed, and what the change costs or gains, is very often the poem's argument.

- **Contrast** 对照 can be introduced through **focus, tone, point of view, character or speaker perspective, and dramatic situation**.
- Contrasts are the result of **shifts or juxtapositions or both** 转换与并置.
- Shifts may be signalled by a word, a structural convention, or punctuation.
- Shifts may **emphasise contrasts between particular segments** of a text.

Four places contrast lives

BETWEEN CHARACTERS — a foil,
showing what the other is by not being it

INSIDE ONE CHARACTER —
what they say against what they do

BETWEEN SETTING AND FEELING
— a cheerful room and a grief in it

BETWEEN PARTS OF THE TEXT
— a scene that answers an earlier one

Four places to look, not one. The contrast **inside** a character is usually the one that carries a complexity question

4

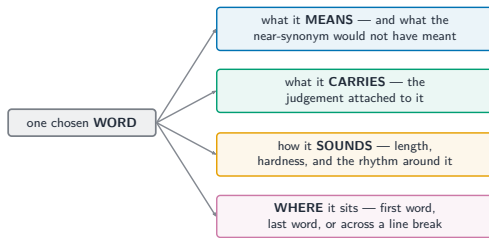
The Function of Specific Words and Phrases

The Function of Specific Words and Phrases

Ambiguous reference is worth special attention. In prose it is usually a fault; in poetry it is often a device, and a pronoun that could point two ways may be holding both meanings deliberately.

- An **antecedent** 先行词 is a word, phrase, or clause that precedes its referent.
- Referents are **ambiguous** if they can refer to more than one antecedent, which **affects interpretation** 影响阐释.
- Words or phrases may be **repeated** to emphasise ideas or associations.
- **Alliteration** 头韵 is the repetition of the same initial sound in adjacent or nearby words, emphasising those words.

One word, four jobs



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5

The Function of a Simile