

Sophomore Poetry Vocabulary List

List # 1

1. **denotation:** The precise, literal meaning of a word without emotional associations or overtones
2. **connotation:** The associations, images, or impressions carried by a word, as opposed to the word's literal meaning.
3. **alliteration:** The repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words or within words.
4. **consonance:** The close repetition of identical consonant sounds before and after differing vowel sounds.
5. **free verse:** poetry that is free of regular meter but instead follows more closely the natural speech rhythms
6. **prose:** any ordinary writing or speech that lacks the sustained and regular rhythmic patterns of poetry
7. **rhyme:** the similarity of sounds between two words
8. **meter:** the fixed or nearly fixed pattern of accented and unaccented syllables in a line of a poem that produces its rhythm
9. **onomatopoeia:** The use of words whose sound imitates the sound of the thing being named.
10. **rhythm:** The patterned flow of sound in poetry and prose.
11. **stanza:** A section or division of a poem; specifically, a grouping of lines into a recurring pattern.
12. **assonance:** The close repetition of middle vowel sounds between different consonant sounds.

List #2

13. **internal conflict:** A character's struggle against or within himself or herself.
14. **external conflict:** A character's struggle against nature or against another character.
15. **mood:** The prevailing emotional attitude in a literary work or in part of a work.
16. **situational irony:** The contrast between what is expected and what actually occurs.
17. **verbal irony:** A figure of speech in which there is a contrast between what is said and what is actually meant.
18. **dramatic irony:** A situation in literature in which the audience/reader is intended to understand something the characters do not
19. **hyperbole:** obvious exaggeration or overstatement meant to create humor or emphasis
20. **parody:** a composition that ridicules another composition by imitating and exaggerating aspects of its content, structure or style.
21. **oxymoron:** a figure of speech in which two contradictory words or phrases are combined in a single expression, giving the effect of a paradox
22. **paradox:** A statement that, while apparently self-contradictory, is nonetheless essentially true.
23. **tone:** The author's attitude toward his or her subject, character and readers.

List #3

24. **foreshadowing:** The technique of giving hints or clues that suggest or prepare for events that occur later in a work.
25. **symbol:** Anything, usually something concrete that signifies or stands for something else, usually something abstract.
26. **allegory:** A work of literature in which characters, events, and settings represent abstract qualities and in which the writer intends a second meaning to be read beneath the surface story
27. **metaphor:** An implied analogy in which one thing is imaginatively and directly compared to or identified with another, dissimilar thing.
28. **allusion:** A passing reference to historical or fictional characters, places, or events, or to other works that the writer assumes the reader will recognize.
29. **personification:** A figure of speech in which human characteristics are attributed to animals, plants, inanimate objects, natural forces or abstract ideas.
30. **theme:** The central idea or message in a work of literature.
31. **imagery:** Figurative language that appeals to the five senses and creates "pictures in words."
32. **analogy:** A comparison of similar things that uses something familiar to explain something unfamiliar.
33. **characterization:** the method through which an author creates the appearance and personality of a character
34. **simile:** A figure of speech that uses 'like', 'as', or 'as if' to compare two essentially different objects, actions, or attributes that share some aspect of similarity.