

Poetry Power: Grade 4 Literary Terms

Learning objective: To identify and understand key poetic devices and vocabulary to enhance reading and creative writing skills.

Read the front of each flashcard to test your knowledge of poetic techniques. Flip to the back (the answer) to check if you are correct. Use these terms to help Pip the bookworm and Leo the lion write their next poem!

Alliteration

The repetition of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

Metaphor

A figure of speech that describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true, but helps explain an idea (e.g., 'The snow is a white blanket').

Simile

A figure of speech comparing two unlike things using the words 'like' or 'as'.

Personification

Giving human qualities, emotions, or actions to animals, objects, or ideas.

Onomatopoeia

Words that imitate the natural sounds of a thing (e.g., 'buzz', 'hiss', or 'bang').

Stanza

A group of lines forming the basic recurring metrical unit in a poem; a verse paragraph.

Rhythm

The beat or pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line of poetry.

Rhyme Scheme

The ordered pattern of rhymes at the ends of the lines of a poem or verse (e.g., AABB or ABAB).

Imagery

Descriptive language that appeals to the five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch) to create a picture in the reader's mind.

Hyperbole

An extreme exaggeration used for emphasis or effect, not meant to be taken literally.

What is the difference between a metaphor and a simile?

A simile uses 'like' or 'as' to compare things, whereas a metaphor states that one thing IS another.

Why do poets use onomatopoeia?

To make the poem more vivid and help the reader 'hear' the sounds described in the writing.