

# Poetry through Time



**Romantic Poetry** is not love poetry! The Romantic era was an artistic, literary, musical and intellectual movement that occurred at the end of the 18th century. It was a reaction against the driving force of Enlightenment ideas (logic, reason, science, progress, discovery, industrialisation) which celebrated the experience and feelings of the individual, the power and sublimity of nature, the imagination. Try reading the works of these great Romantics: Coleridge, Wordsworth, Shelley, Charlotte Smith, William Blake.

**Epic Poetry** is the oldest form of Literature in the world. Epic poems are lengthy narrative poems typically about the extraordinary deeds of extraordinary characters who, in dealings with gods or other superhuman forces, gave shape to the mortal universe for their descendants. Many early epic poems were initially shared orally and – due to this – contain stylistic choices that make memorisation easier: repetition, alliteration, rhythm. They had a social function: to facilitate and communicate the spread of culture.

Whilst **war poetry** is not a movement per se (there are poems about war which are Epic poems, like the Iliad; there are war poems about most acts of conflict throughout History) with World War 1 came an emergence of poets whose compositions played a crucial role in shaping perceptions of that era: Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon are voices to research and study.

<b>Key Knowledge</b>	Definition
<b>Stanzas</b>	these are the sections a poem may be split up into; they can be regular or irregular. The <b>lines</b> can be <b>end-stopped</b> (ending on a .), or they can run-on; this is called <b>enjambment</b> .
<b>Rhyme</b>	<b>Some poems rhyme:</b> the end of the lines can have the same sound. Rhyming patterns can be regular: if the first and third line always rhyme, as do the second and fourth line, then you have a regular ABAB rhyme scheme! <b>Internal rhyme</b> is when words <i>in the same line</i> sound the same.
<b>Rhythm</b>	<b>Rhythm</b> is important in poetry: very skilled poets will think about how many syllables (or beats) they wish to use in each line, creating a regular <b>metre</b> . A regular rhythm enables poets to <b>stress</b> specific beats, words and sounds.
<b>Speaker</b>	A poem has a <b>speaker</b> : that is the voice of the poem. This may not be the voice of the poet. Not all poems are autobiographical! Poets often place themselves into others' shoes to explore ideas and experiences.
<b>Sonnet</b>	This is a poem that's 14 lines long. Often sonnets are an expression of love. Shakespearean sonnets use iambic pentameter (10 beats per line, with regular stresses on the second beat) and an ABAB CDCD EFEF GG rhyme scheme.
<b>Metaphor</b>	a figure of speech where something is described as being something else or as something that it can't be.
<b>Simile</b>	a figure of speech where one thing is compared to another using 'like' or 'as'.
<b>Personification</b>	a figure of speech giving human qualities to inanimate objects or animals.
<b>Zoomorphism</b>	a figure of speech giving animalistic qualities to humans or objects