



STM Knowledge Organiser

Year: 9

Subject: English

Unit: Poetry

Key Vocabulary

Sonnet	<i>A poem of fourteen lines using any of a number of formal rhyme schemes, typically having ten syllables per line.</i>
Syllable	<i>A syllable is a part of a word that contains a single vowel sound and that is pronounced as a unit e.g. 'book' has one syllable and 'reading' has two syllables.</i>
Iambic pentameter	<i>A line of verse with five pairs of syllables, each consisting of one short (or unstressed) syllable followed by one long (or stressed) syllable, for example 'Two households, both alike in dignity'.</i>
Romantic Movement	<i>A literary movement (approx. 1790–1850) characterised by a celebration of nature and a less industrialised way of life.</i>
Monologue	<i>A long speech by one character.</i>
Tyrant	<i>A cruel and oppressive ruler.</i>
Infer	<i>To make an educated guess.</i>
Metaphor	<i>A comparison in which one thing is said to be another e.g. the snow is a white blanket.</i>
Onomatopoeia	<i>A word that sounds like what it is describing e.g. crash, sizzle or bang.</i>
Personification	<i>To give human characteristics to something that is not human e.g. the wind howled.</i>
Simile	<i>A comparison using as or like e.g. as brave as a lion.</i>
Stanza	<i>A group of lines in a poem.</i>

Core Knowledge (Approaching the Texts)

- You will be studying two poems from the GCSE poetry anthology in this unit.
- There are fifteen poems in total that you will be required to know for your GCSE exam.
- In the exam you will be asked to compare the subject, structure and style of two of the poems that you have studied.

Core Knowledge (Social and Historical Context)

Poem 1—*Ozymandias* by Percy Shelley

- Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822) is one of the most famous poets in all of English literature.
- He was one of a group of poets who became known as The Romantics.
- One evening Shelley and his friends discussed archaeological discoveries in the Near East and how the power of the pharaohs in Egypt had seemed eternal, but now this once-great empire was in ruins.
- Shelley based his poem on one of those leaders; Rameses II.

Poem 2—*My Last Duchess* by Robert Browning

- Robert Browning (1812-1889) was greatly influenced by Percy Bysshe Shelley and he went on to become a celebrated Victorian poet.
- His best work focuses on figures from the past, who reveal their thoughts and lives by speaking or thinking aloud, often in the form of a monologue.
- 'My Last Duchess' is based on historical events.

Core Knowledge (Analysing Language)

Poets will use a range of techniques to engage and influence the reader. Some of these poetic devices are:

- Alliteration
- Imagery
- Metaphor
- Onomatopoeia
- Personification
- Simile
- Repetition
- Assonance

Core Knowledge (Analysing Structure and Form)

Poets will think carefully about the way that a poem is set out on the page as it is another way, other than through language, that they can put across their thoughts and feelings to the reader. Some of the techniques used are:

- Rhyme e.g. rhyming couplets or alternate rhyme
- Rhythm
- Number and length of verses
- Different forms such as a sonnet or a monologue
- Single sentence lines