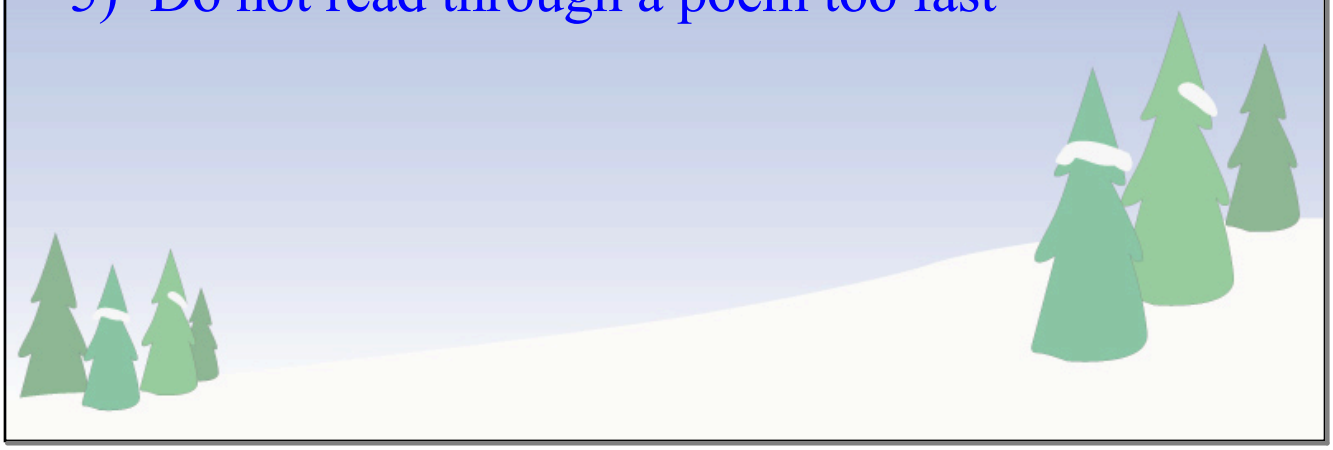
Poetry Notes

* **Poetry** is the kind of language that says more and says it more intensely than ordinary language.

* Its function is not to tell us *about* an experience, but to allow us to imaginatively *participate* in it.

------*Reading the Poem*------

1) Read a poem more than once
2) Keep a dictionary by you and use it
3) Read poetry aloud so to *hear* the words
4) Pay careful attention to what the poem is saying
5) Do not read through a poem too fast



- **Paraphrase**: Restate the meaning of the poem in your own language

- **Imagery**: Representation through language of sense experience-Visual, Sound, Smell, Taste, Touch
* Also internal (hunger, nausea) and movement

- **Figure of Speech**: Any way of saying something other than the ordinary

- **Simile**: Comparison using *like* or *as*

- **Metaphor**: Direct comparison between two things

- **Personification**: Assigning human attributes to an animal, object, or concept

- **Apostrophe**: Addressing someone absent or dead or nonhuman as if it were present, alive, and could reply

- **Alliteration**: The repetition of initial consonant sounds

- **Assonance**: The repetition of vowel sounds (mad hatter, free and easy)

- **Consonance**: The repetition of final consonant sounds (short & sweet, stroke of luck)

- **Refrain**: Repetition done according to a fixed pattern

- **Connotation**: Implied meaning of a word; what a word suggests beyond its basic definition

- **Denotation**: The dictionary definition of a word

- **Free Verse** : Without established poetic form; nonmetrical poetry

- **Prose**: Short composition having the intentions of poetry but not written in verse

- **Shakespearean Sonnet**: Rhyme scheme: *abab cdcd efef gg*. Includes three quatrains and a couplet. Usually includes an octave and sestet-the principal break in thought.

- **Quatrain**: Four line Stanza

- **Stanza**: Group of lines

- **Couplet**: Two successive lines linked by rhyme

- **Octave**: First eight line stanza of a sonnet

- **Sestet**: Last six line stanza of a sonnet.

- **Metonymy**: The use of something closely related for the thing actually meant (Ex: Tongues for languages; Crown for king…)

- **Synecdoche**: The use of the part for the whole (Ex: All *hands* on deck--entire men, not just hands)

- **Hyberbole**: An extreme exaggeration

- **Oxymoron**: The combination of two contradicting ideas