

## **AN INTRODUCTION INTO POETRY**

In this lecture we will talk about some important points about poetry in general and we will define important words which are required for the exam.

### **Poetry:**

Poetry is a kind of art used to describe feelings , emotions ,and experiences from one period to another and to show its old history.

**John Dryden** defines the purpose of poetry as \_  
amusement and entertainment.

### **Coleridge** defines it as:

The best words in the best order.

### **Poem:**

It is a piece of writing that contains many lines with a rhyme.

The title of the poem should be written between inverted commas " ".

Ex: " Song to Celia"

### **How can you study a poem?**

First, we should read the poem many times, then paraphrase the poem.

### **Paraphrasing:**

It means to rewrite the same meaning but in other words, or to explain or rephrase a poem in your own language without changing the main idea.

We will find many new words and vocabulary, so we can translate it from the dictionary and explain it with other words in the same meaning.

The most important thing in our study of the poem is **the main idea**.

### **Form:**

(rhyme, meter, rhythm- scansion- stanza form-  
figures of speech- sound devices)

### Rhyme:

It is the sameness of sounds at the end of every line in the poem. Rhyme makes the poetry easy to memorize.

\* We have to look at the sound not the letter.

### Meter:

Is the repetition of a pattern of sound. The number of feet decide which meter we are talking about.

### Refrain:

It is one or two lines repeated at the end of the Ballad

### Kinds of poems:

**1 –Epic :**It is a narrative poem about wars and adventure stories of love . It is a very long poem.The characters belong to high class, and the subject in it is very serious.

**2 –Ballad;**It is a short narrative poem that talks about single dramatic story that is written in the form of songs. It is usually accompanied by dancing.

1-the beginning is sudden.

2-the language is simple used by ordinary people.

3- the theme is tragic but some Ballads have a comic theme.

### **3 –Pastoral:**

It deals with rustic life of shepherded and life in the country side.

### **4 –Elegy:**

is a sad poem, usually written to praise and express sorrow for someone who is dead.

**5-Mock Epic:**It is a style of writing which talks about silly things in a perfect language. Ex: " The Rape of the Lock" for Alexander Pope which is the most comic and trivial poem.

**6-Blank verse/Free verse:**

Is poetry based on unrhymed lines and definite meter and free from rhyme scheme. It is a simple language and used in everyday speech.

**7-Ode:**

Is a lyric poem, usually praising something, it is an elaborately structured poem praising or glorifying an event or individual.

**8- Sonnet** is a kind of poem that contains 14 lines.

**Kinds of sonnets:**

1- Shakespearean sonnet.

2- Petrarchan sonnet.

3- Spenserian sonnet.

The Shakespearean sonnet is divided into 3 quatrains and a couplet.

The rhyme scheme is ababcdcdefefgg.

E.g. Eyes state cries fate

a     b     a     b

### Historical periods of English verse:

1- Old ages : before 14 century

2- Middle ages

3-Renaissance age : ( 14<sup>th</sup> century – 1660).

a- Elizabethan Renaissance

b- Shakespearian Renaissance

c- late Renaissance

4- The new classical period.

5- The Restoration.

6- The 19<sup>th</sup> century:

a- Romanticism

b- Victorian