

## Poetry Review Exercise

## Elements of Poetry Review

## Bell Ringer

*Read the following poem. Once you are finished, please answer the questions below:*

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*Ode to the Classroom (footnotes added)*

When you see a classroom, what comes to mind?  
The image of a bland, bossy teacher  
With boring talks, who's anything but kind?  
There's so much more to find, if you're eager.

I see lines of desks, with tattoos of pen.  
Whose backs carried books and laptops plenty,  
Ambitious acolytes<sup>1</sup> ascribing then  
Essays, and projects, and tests a many.

I envision an aged instructor keen<sup>2</sup>,  
Whose mind is as massive a filled sponge.  
Describing the growth of a tiny bean,  
Or in the pools of history they plunge.

For while the classroom can be dull and tough,  
We all have learned a lot, and that's enough.

## Footnotes

1. Acolyte (noun) – student
2. Keen (adjective) – great; excellent

1. How many syllables are in each line of the poem? (Hint: there is the same amount in each line)
2. Look at the last word in each line of this poem. Which of these words, if any, rhyme?

3. Provide me an example of the following types of figurative language and sound devices from this poem:
  - a. Simile:
  - b. Metaphor:
  - c. Personification:
  - d. Alliteration:
  - e. Assonance:

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Vocabulary – Poetic Structure

- *Syllable*:
  - Example:
- *Meter*:
  - How is it meter measured?

- *Stanza:*
  - How many stanzas are in the example on the board?
  
- *Rhyme Scheme:*
  - What is the rhyme scheme of the example on the board?

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Group Practice – Structure

*Read the following of a tanaga poem, a traditional style of Filipino poetry. Please do the following:*

- *Meter: Draw a line between each syllable. To find the number of feet, we will take the total number of syllables in each line and divide them by two. (All lines have the same length)*
- *Rhyme Scheme: For each group of rhyming words, letter them off. Write “A” for the first group of rhyming words, “B” for the second group, and so on.*
- *Stanzas: Count the number of groups of lines in the poem.*

*Unalaska Skies*

A typhoon force western gust  
 Throws grey clouds to lull the light  
 With a grey blanket. There must  
 Be skies of blue. Well, there might...

1. How many feet are in each line of this poem?

2. Write the rhyme scheme by listing off the paired rhymes in order.
3. How many stanzas are in this poem?

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Vocabulary – Figurative Language and Sound Devices

- *Simile:*
  - Write down an example of a simile.
- *Metaphor:*
  - Write down an example of a metaphor.
- *Personification:*
  - Write an example of a personification using your pencil as the item you are personifying.
- *Alliteration*
  - Write a sentence using words starting with the letter C.

- *Assonance:*

- Write a sentence using words starting with the letter O.

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Group Practice – Structure

*Using the same tanaga as before, we are going to look for any figurative language and sound devices used by the author. Use your highlighters to highlight these phrases in the following colors:*

- *Similes in yellow.*
- *Metaphors in green.*
- *Personification in blue.*
- *Alliteration in pink.*
- *Assonance in red or orange.*

*Unalaska Skies*

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 Be skies of blue. Well, there might...