

## How To Read A Poem

Good reading plays an important role in the appreciation, enjoyment and understanding of poetry. Good reading develops with practice, repetition and listening to professional or good readers of poetry. A poem therefore should be read aloud. After listening to the teacher, a student must attempt to read the poem aloud, word by word, to himself/herself or to others. Words are the heart and soul of poetry, as all of literature, Because of their importance special attention must be paid to every word used in the poem as to every punctuation mark: whether the lines are end - stopped or run - on lines, whether there are pauses and so on. Punctuation marks are significant in creating rhythm in poetry and clarifying meaning.

There are no specific rules on how to read a poem but certain practices have proved to be very useful especially to beginners in poetry. The student might want to do the following: as a first step, write down any words that attract your attention in the poem. What do these words mean to you? With what do you associate them? Try to establish a relationship between them. Who is speaking out these words? The poet himself or a character he has created? To whom is the person speaking? To himself, to another character in the poem, or to the reader?

It is equally important, to consider the setting of the poem: is it a garden, the seaside, the countryside, the city, a cottage, a castle ... etc.



## The Essentials of Poetry

### Language:

Language is one of the most essential features of poetry. Poems are made of words. The selection of words in a poem is called diction. The poet communicates, his ideas, thoughts, vision through the words he chooses, placing them in a particular order. Whatever the poet is doing, expressing an emotion, telling a story, describing a scene, reflecting on life he does it through the use of words or language.

In considering the language of a poem we have to distinguish between the meaning that a word has in the dictionary (what is called denotation) and the more hidden meaning of the word, implying attitudes and values (what is called connotation). "Connotations appeal to the feelings, denotations to the brain". Take the word 'spring, for instance. Spring is one of the four seasons; but because of its nature, that is, its being clean, fresh, beautiful, it has come to be associated with innocence, purity, youthfulness, life itself. Such Usage of language is frequent in poetry. Poetry is rich with connotations.

Another aspect of language is the use of symbols (symbolic language). A symbol language is a kind of metaphor, a comparison which "represents or sums up a much more larger sphere of activity or interest". Hence, the cross is a symbol for the Christian religion. The flag is a symbol of a nation. Flowers, the rose, in particular, are symbols of love and beauty. Symbols are of two kinds: the public or conventional symbol (the cross, the flag ...) which is easily understood by readers,

A screenshot of a document viewer application. The main content area displays a document titled "The Essentials of Poetry" with a sub-section "Language:". The text discusses the importance of language in poetry, mentioning diction, connotation, and denotation. The interface includes a top navigation bar with "Menu", "Home", "CamScanner 12-22-2023...", and "Create" buttons, and a "Sign in" button. Below the navigation bar are "All tools", "Edit", "Convert", and "Sign" options. On the right side, there is a sidebar with a search icon, a list of icons, and a page number "7" in a box, with "40" below it. At the bottom right, there are icons for zooming in and out.

Menu Home CamScanner 12-22-2023... X + Create Sign in

All tools Edit Convert Sign Find text or tools Q [Icons]

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Queen rose of the rosebud garden of girls,  
Come hither, the dance are done.  
In gloss of satin and glimmer of pearls,  
Queen lily and rose in one.  
(Tennyson)

7 40 [Icons]