



Tikrit University

Collage of Education for Women

English department

Stage: Second Class

Subject: Poetry

Lecture title: Poetry Structure

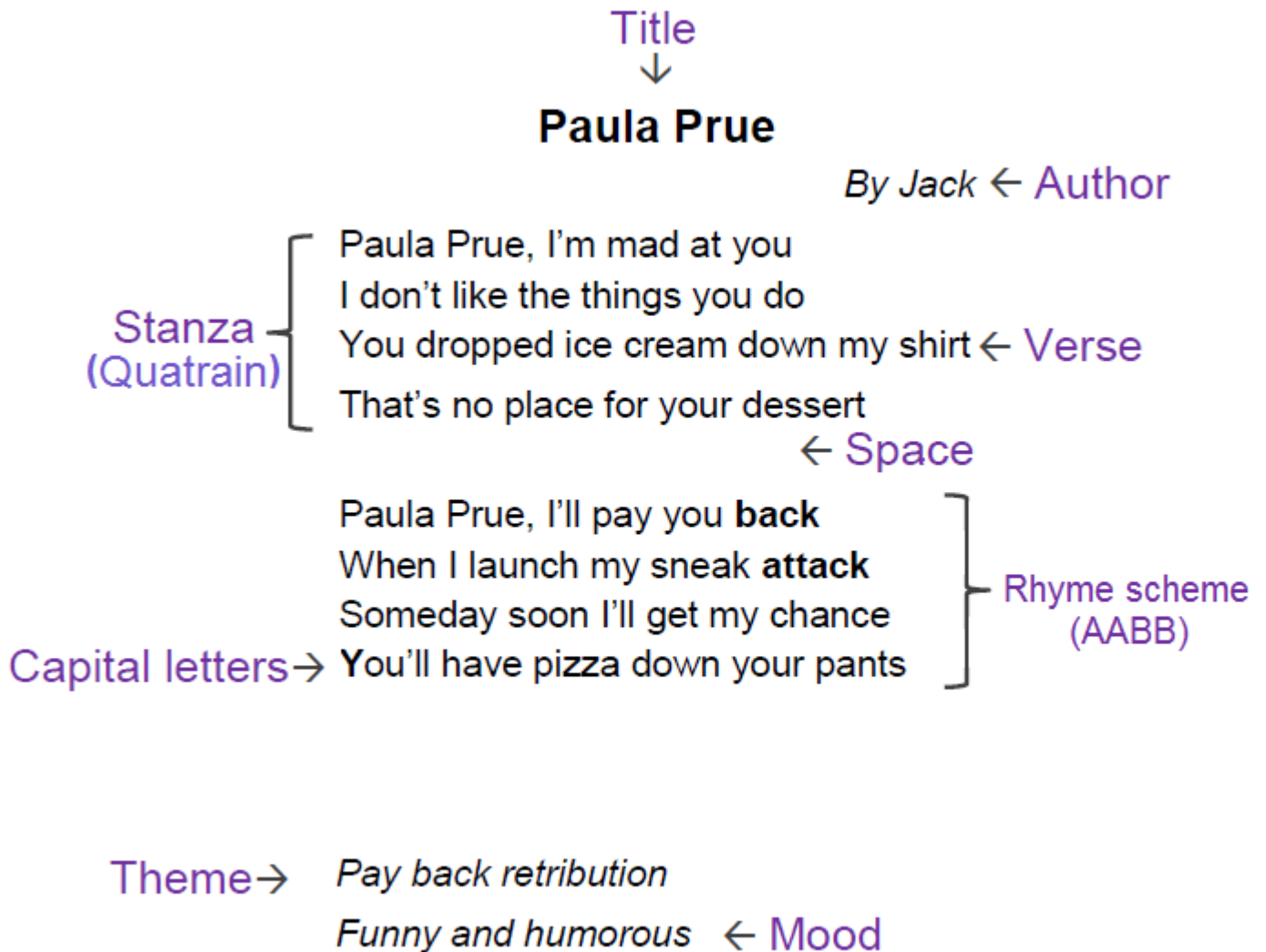
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Poetry Structure

When it comes to the structure of poetry, there are several key elements to consider. Poetry can be structured in various ways, including through meter, rhyme, line length, and form. The choice between traditional structured poetry and free verse depends on the message the writer wants to convey and their personal preference.

Main elements of a poem



Every poem has form, it differs one of each other according to the style of poet. Each poet can arrange his poem so that you will read it as he wants you to read it to get its sound, rhythm, and emphasis. The length of lines and the location of pauses affect the speed at which you read his poem. In modern free verse the very typographical arrangement of words in lines produces emphasis, just as regular rhythm and rhyme produce emphasis in regular verse.

There is such a vast difference in the following arrangements of words that the very meaning of the words is changed:

Star, if you are a love compassionate, you will walk.
with us this year. We face a glacial distance who are
here huddled at your feet. (Burford)

Star,
If you are
A love compassionate,
You will walk with us this year.
We face a glacial distance who are here
Huddl'd
At your feet.
--Burford

Prose	Poetry
Words	words
Sentences	lines
Paragraphs	stanzas
Chapters	cantos

The appearance of the poem is often a clue to its form, since form is usually determined by the number of lines, the length of the lines, the rhythmic pattern, and/or the rhyming scheme. The **rhyming scheme** (rhyme pattern) can be determined only by looking at the form of the whole poem. Rhyme schemes are indicated by the use of letters to designate rhyming combinations.

-sound = A
 -ten = B
 -men = B = A B B A C
 -round = A
 -fight = C

Types of poetry according to form:

(Regular Verse, Blank Verse, Free Verse)

Regular verse: Rhyme and Rhythm

<u>No. of Lines</u>	<u>What It's Called</u>	<u>What It Is</u>
2	rhymed couplet	2 lines with identical rhymes
2	heroic couplet	2 lines with identical rhymes
3	tercet, triplet	3 lines any rhyme scheme, any meter
4	quatrain	4 lines, any rhyme scheme, any meter
4	ballad quatrain	4 lines rhyming a b c b; 1st & 3rd lines iambic tetrameter, 2nd & 4th lines iambic trimeter
5	quintet	5 lines, any rhyme scheme, any meter
5	cinquain	5 lines, no rhyme, no meter BUT consisting respectively of 2, 4, 6, 8 and, 2 syllables a line

6	sestet	6 lines (often 3 sets of couplets) any rhyme scheme, any meter
7	rime royal	7 lines rhyming a b a b b c c iambic pentameter
8	octave	8 lines, any rhyme scheme, any meter
8	ottava rima	8 lines rhyming a b a b a b c c iambic pentameter
9	Spenserian stanza	9 lines rhyming a b a b b c b c c lines 1 - 8 iambic pentameter line 9 iambic hexameter
14	sonnet	14 lines iambic pentameter English - 3 quatrains + 1 couplet abab cdcd efef gg Italian - 1 octave + 1 sestet
19	villanelle	19 lines – 5 tercets + 1 quatrain 2 repeating refrains, 8 of 19 lines are refrain line 1 A' (repeated entirely at 6, 12, & 18) line 3 A'' (repeated entirely at 9, 15, & 19) scheme, A'bA'' abA' abA'' abA' abA'' abA'A''