**Glossary of Terms:**

**Elements of Poetry**

**Alliteration:** The repetition of the same or similar consonant sounds in words that are close together. Ex: The sneaky, slippery snake.

**Allusion:** A reference to someone or something that is known from history, literature, religion, politics, sports, science, or some other branch of culture (with out say the name).

**Context Clues:** Using words surrounding unknown words to determine their meaning.

**Couplet:** Two consecutive lines of poetry that work together.

**Drawing Conclusions:** Use written cues to figure out something that is not directly stated.

**Free Verse:** Poetry that does not conform to a regular meter or rhyme scheme.

**Haiku:** Presents a vivid picture and the poet’s impressions, sometimes with suggestions of spiritual insight. The traditional haiku is three lines long: the first line is five syllables, the second is seven syllables, and the third line is five syllables.

**Hyperbole:** A figure of speech that uses incredible exaggeration, or overstatement, for effect.

Ex. I could eat a horse right now. There were a million people at the game.

**Imagery:** The use of language to evoke a picture or a concrete sensation of a person, a thing, a place, or an experience.

**Inferring:** Giving a logical guess based on the facts or evidence presented using prior knowledge to help “read between the lines”

**Irony:** In general, it is the difference between the way something appears and what is actually true.

**Meaning:** What the poem is about.

**Metaphor:** A figure of speech that makes a comparison between two unlike things without using the words like or as. Ex. Education is a life raft in the ocean.

**Mood:** The feeling created in the reader by the poem or story.

**Onomatopoeia:** The use of a word whose sound imitates or suggests its meaning. Ex. Boom! Smash! Pow! Pssst. Ssshh! Buzz. Splash. Etc.

**Pattern:** A combination of the organization of lines, rhyme schemes, stanzas, rhythm, and meter. (There can be as many patterns as there are poems.)

**Personification:** A figure of speech in which an object or animal is given human feelings, thoughts, or attitudes. Ex. My computer stared at me, deciding if it wanted to cooperate.

**Rereading:** Gives the reader more than one chance to make sense of challenging text.

**Rhyme/Rhyme Scheme:** The repetition of vowel sounds in accented syllables and all succeeding syllables.

**Rhythm:** A rise and fall of the voice produced by the alternation of stressed and unstressed syllables in language.

**Setting:** The time and place of the action.

**Simile:** A figure of speech that makes an explicit comparison between two unlike things, using the words like or as. Ex. My shoes were like falcons, enabling me to fly across the basketball court.

**Sonnet:** A fourteen-line lyric poem, usually written in rhymed iambic pentameter.

**Speaker:** The imaginary voice assumed by the writer of a poem.

**Stanza:** A group of lanes in a poem considered as a unit. Stanzas often function like paragraphs in prose. Each stanza states and develops a single main idea.

**Symbols:** A person, place, thing, or event that has meaning in itself and that also stands for something more that itself.

**Theme:** The central message or insight into life revealed through the poem.

**Tone:** The attitude a writer takes toward the subject of a work, the characters in it, or the audience.