

10 Influential Poets

William Wordsworth	An English Romantic poet. His most famous poem is 'Daffodils'.
William Shakespeare	In his lifetime he wrote over 150 poems. Shakespearean sonnets are still widely studied today.
Emily Dickinson	An American poet who lived most of her life in isolation.
Maya Angelou	A civil rights activist and poet whose most famous poem is 'Still I Rise'.
Rudyard Kipling	Author of 'The Jungle Book'. His most famous poem is 'If'.
Tupac Shakur	An American rapper, poet and actor. He was famously assassinated in his youth.
Carol Ann Duffy	She is the current poet laureate in the UK. One of her most famous poems is 'Valentine'.
Ted Hughes	Considered one of the greatest writers and poets of the 20 th century. He was married to Sylvia Plath.
Sylvia Plath	American poet. She was married to Ted Hughes.
Wilfred Owen	One of the most famous poets from WW1. He wrote poetry about the horrors of war.

The Poet Laureate

The poet laureate is an honoured poet chosen by the government or monarchy who is expected to compose poems for special occasions. The poet laureate of Britain is usually appointed for life. Carol Ann Duffy became the first woman to hold the role of Britain's poet laureate. She was appointed in 2009.



Introduction to Poetry

Poetic Structures

Term	Definition
Ballad	Story poems— often 4 lines stanzas
Blank verse	Verse with no rhyme – usually 10 syllables
Epic	Tragic/heroic story poems
Free verse	No regular rhyme/rhythm
Haiku	3 lines, syllables 5/7/5. Often about nature
Ode	Lyrical poem often addressed to one person
Sonnet	14 lined love poem
Shape poem	Poem is in shape of the main subject
Rhyme scheme	The pattern of the lines that rhyme in a poem.
Rhyming couplet	Two lines next to each other that rhyme.



Poetic Techniques

Term	Definition
Alliteration	When words placed together start with the same sound. "She sells sea shells on the sea shore".
Metaphor	When you say something is something else but you know it can't be. "She is a star!"
Simile	When you compare two things using 'as' or 'like'. "As brave as a lion".
Oxymoron	When two words are placed together with opposite meanings. "Cruel kindness" or "silent scream".
Onomatopoeia	Words that sound like what they are. "Meow" or "crash".
Assonance	The repetition of a vowel sound "Go slow over the road".
Emotive language	Language used to create a particular emotion in the reader.
Figurative language	When writers use similes, metaphors or personification to describe something in a non-literal way.
Imagery	When something is described in way that appeals to our senses.
Structure	The way that the poem is arranged/organised.
Sibilance	A repeated 's', 'sh' or 'z' sound.
Semantic field	A group of words in the poem that are all about the same thing/idea.
Caesura	A pause in the middle of the line.
Enjambment	When one line runs into another without a pause.