

AP Literature Study Guide

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Unit 8: Poetry III

Punctuation:

- **Terminology:**

- **Comma:** in between independent and dependent clauses. Needed when listing three or more items (,)
- **Colon:** used to draw attention to what is next. Is in between independent clause and evidence (:)
- **Semicolon:** is in between two independent clauses (;)
- **Dashes:** used to draw attention to what is next, or an appositive (----)
- **Hyphen:** brings words together to create superword (-)
- **Period:** ends a sentence (.)
- **End-stopped line:** when punctuation occurs at the end of a line/verse
- **Enjambment:** when there is no punctuation at the end of the line
- **Caesura:** when punctuation mark comes within the line/in the middle of the line

- **Punctuation in Poetry:**

- Punctuation assists in **organizing words into verses**.
 - It secures and settles thoughts and ideas
 - Ensures coherence
 - Enhances the presentation of the main theme or meaning
 - Signals when to rest or keep going
- Punctuation also reveals the **tone** and **mood** of the speaker in the poem
 - If there is **little to no punctuation**, the speaker can be revealed as either free spirited and humorous, or in a tense nature where they are ranting or rambling words in the poem.
 - If there is **structured and consistent punctuation**, then the speaker can be revealed as organized and serious, causing the reader to have to look for diction that reveals a specific tone.
 - If there are **sudden punctuation marks**, then the speaker is shown as indecisive and there is a situation in the poem that has an abrupt ending or stop, where a period is suddenly placed.

Juxtaposition:

- When two (sometimes opposite) words are placed near one another, in order to create a comparison or contrasting effect.
 - **Example:**
 - “pretty ugly”
 - Juxtaposition helps to reveal the importance and specific details and qualities of each contrasting idea.
 - Used when good and evil characters are placed next to one another
 - Example: Lord Voldemort and Harry Potter

Paradox:

- A statement that contradicts itself
- A statement that must be both true and false at the same time; self-contradictory
 - **Examples:**
 - “Your enemy’s friend is your enemy”
 - “Wise fool”

Irony:

- A **literary device** where there is a contrast between expectation and reality.
- A **contrast** between **expectations** for a situation and what is **reality**.
- Can also be the underlying or figurative meaning of the poem
- Irony trumps everything by taking reader’s expectations and upending them
- It **expands the range of interpretation** and can be applied to any symbol
- Irony can be used to determine the authority of beliefs
- It also adds humor to a poem or literary work
 - Sarcasm can also be connected to irony

Conceit:

- A type of **metaphor** that compares two unlike things.
- Usually are extended metaphors that dominate an entire poem/passage
- A poetic conceit is often unconventional and complex
- Are used to create unique comparisons and to describe unlikely situations

- **Example:**

- “Marriage is like getting a root canal.”
- “Childbirth is like having a nail driven through your hand.”

Violence:

- One of the most personal, intimate, cultural, societal acts and implications
- Violence can be symbolic, thematic, biblical, Shakespearean, Romantic, allegorical
- It is **literal**, but **can also mean something else**
- **Types Of Violence:**
 - **Usual range of behavior:** shootings, stabbings, drownings
 - **Authorial violence:** death and suffering authors introduce into their work in the interest of plot development, which they are responsible for

