

POETRY: FOUR GENERATIVE PRINCIPLES

POETRY DEPENDS ON SURPRISE AND FIGURE

1. **Figurative language**

- metaphoric or analogic language use
- figures of resemblance: traditional concepts of metaphor, similie, personification, onomotopoeia

POETRY DEPENDS UPON RECURRENCE

1. **Rhythm**: A sequence of sounds and silences in a recurrent but variable pattern (or expectation).
 - free verse: phrasal rhythms of speech, open forms
 - parallelism Semitic language poetry, including the Bible; American Indian poetry
2. **Phonetic recurrence** of sounds:
Traditional concepts of:
 - alliteration
 - rhyme
 - assonance

POETRY EVOKES EMOTION THROUGH THE SENSE IMAGE

Sense Image : A group of words which evokes a sensory response in the reader or listener. Words which read or heard enter us through the ears or eyes and create physical responses within our minds and our bodies.

- Most images are visual, but any or all of the senses may respond to an image.
- The more specific and concrete the words are, the more intense and clear the resulting sensation will be.
- Images can be literal/descriptive, or figurative. One term of a metaphor is always an image.
- Through the image, the writer achieves the re-creation of sensory experience.
- The ability to respond to a given image is a function of shared experience between the writer and the audience.

POETRY DEPENDS ON GLUE

As Aristotle observed long ago, a work of art must be one thing, a unity. It should resist being taken apart; its parts should cohere (stick together). What sticks the parts together is the poem's glue. Sometimes the glue is recurrence of rhythm, or sound; sometimes the glue is figurative language (an extended figure), sometimes a cluster or sequence of related images.

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