



# E-SENIORS



**"NEVER TOO LATE FOR EUROPEAN SYNERGY" (N2L84ES)**



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## Glossary of Poetic Terminology (L – P)

**Limerick:** Form of light verse or nonsense poem consisting of five lines and usually rhymed: a-a-b-b-a. Limericks often start with the line, "There once was a..." or "There was a..." The first, second and fifth lines contain three feet or stresses, while the third and fourth lines contain two feet or stresses. Limericks are traditionally bawdy or just irreverent. **Example:** *There was once a young lady named Claris / Whom nothing could ever embarrass / Till the bath salts one day / In the tub where she lay / Turned out to be plaster of Paris!*

**T**IM WORE RUBBERBANDS ON HIS WRIST  
FOR EACH ITEM ON HIS TO-DO LIST  
BUT THE MORE HE FORGOT, THE BIGGER IT GOT  
SO NOW IT'S A BIG RUBBER FIST.



**Line:** A basic structural component of a poem. Lines can be written in free form, in syllabic form (e.g. haiku) or in metrical form. In the official classification, metrical lines can vary in length from the monometer (one foot) to the octameter (eight feet).



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**Love Poetry:** Poetry which deals with the agony and ecstasy of love, e.g. Shakespeare's Sonnets.

**SONNET XVIII**

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:  
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;  
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:  
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
So long lives this and this gives life to thee.

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**Metaphor:** An imaginative comparison between two actions, objects, etc. which is not literally applicable. It can be made directly (for example, John Keats's "Beauty is truth, truth beauty" from "Ode on a Grecian Urn") or less directly (for example, Shakespeare's "marriage of two minds"). Unlike a simile, it does not point out a similarity by using words such as "like," "as," or "than."

**Meter:** The regular pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables that make up a line of poetry. Meter gives rhythm and regularity to poetry. However, the English language does not always fit exactly into metrical patterns so many poems employing meter will exhibit irregularities.

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**Narrative Verse:** Verse which tells a story, e.g. *"The Wife of Bath's Tale"* by Geoffrey Chaucer.

**Neologism:** The coining or use of new words or of new meanings for established words. **Example** (in *"Jabberwocky"* by Lewis Carroll): *Twas brillig and the slithy toves / Did gyre and gimble in the wabe / All mimsy were the borogoves / And the mome raths outgrabe.*

**Nursery Rhymes:** Jingles (short verse marked by catchy repetition) written for children. **Example:** *Hickory dickory dock. The mouse went up the clock. The clock struck one. The mouse went down. Hickory dickory dock. Tick tock, tick tock, tick tock, tick tock.*





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**Onomatopoeia:** The use of words which have been formed to sound like the noise of the thing the poet is trying to describe or represent. **Examples:** *buzz, choo-choo, drip, fizz, hiss, jingle, whir.*



**Oxymoron:** A figure of speech that brings together opposite or seemingly contradictory words or ideas for effect, such as "*deafening silence*" and "*sweet sorrow*."



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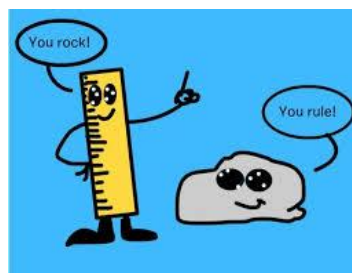
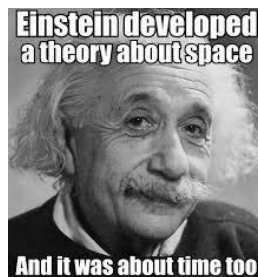
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**Paradox:** Situation or phrase which appears to be contradictory, but which contains a truth worth considering. **Example:** "In order to preserve peace, we must prepare for war."

**Personification:** A figure of speech in which a thing, quality, or idea is imbued with animate or living qualities like those of a person. **Examples:** "Time has been good to me"; "My rose looked lovingly upon me."

**Pun:** Word play involving the humorous use of similar-sounding words with different meanings or single words with multiple meanings. **Examples:** "No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery"; "Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana"; "A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion."



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