

## A GLOSSARY OF POETIC TERMS

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>ALLITERATION</b>    | The repetition of the same consonant at the beginning of/or within a word or words                       |
| <b>ALLUSION</b>        | A reference to something outside the poem itself, but which is used to further the meaning of the poem   |
| <b>ANALOGY</b>         | The comparison of one thing with another   |
| <b>ASSONANCE</b>       | The repetition of the same vowel at the beginning of/or within a word or words                           |
| <b>BALLAD</b>          | A poem which tells a story in four line stanzas, usually with a regular beat                             |
| <b>IMAGERY</b>         | Verbal comparisons used to move beyond the literal meaning to create a picture                           |
| <b>METAPHOR</b>        | A form of comparison in which one thing is completely identified with another                            |
| <b>ONOMATOPOEIA</b>    | The sound of the word echoes the meaning of the sound described  |
| <b>PERSONIFICATION</b> | A comparison in which inanimate objects are given personal qualities                                     |
| <b>RHYME</b>           | The repetition of the same sound within or at the end of lines, usually in a pattern                     |
| <b>RHYTHM</b>          | The metrical pattern of the poem and its lines   |
| <b>SIMILE</b>          | The simplest comparison in which one thing is compared to another 'like' or 'as'                         |
| <b>SONNET</b>          | A poem, usually of fourteen lines, usually of five beats each, which explores a feeling or state of mind |
| <b>STANZA</b>          | The grouping of lines together into patterns   |
| <b>TONE</b>            | The attitude or feeling of the writer towards the subject matter of the poem                             |