



Symbol Poems

Year 9 Poetry Assignment

Due: End of Week 6 • **Word Count:** 800

Learning intention: We are learning to recognise poetic devices and forms, explain their uses and their effect on the audience, and compare how they can be used differently for different effects. We will apply our knowledge by writing our own poetry using these techniques.

PART 1: Analysis

Choose 4 of the symbol poems from the list provided and write a detailed analysis. Each analysis should be 200 words (minimum) and comment on the following:

a) Techniques and devices used:

- **Form and structure.** Identify the type of poem. Identify any form features such as enjambment (line breaks), refrain, or stanza length
- **Soundscape.** Identify the rhyme scheme and meter of the poem, if applicable. Identify any sound devices such as onomatopoeia, assonance, consonance, or alliteration.
- **Figurative language.** Identify any similes, metaphors, imagery, personification, hyperbole, and particularly symbols or symbolism used in the poem (**hint:** all of the poems DO contain a symbol, so don't say "there isn't any symbolism in this poem")
- **Meaning and message.** Identify any allusions, rhetorical questions, or dialogue. Comment on the 'persona' (narrative voice), diction, point of view, mood, title, and ending. Explain the underlying meaning of the poem and the theme or ideas that the poet has explored.

b) WHY did the poet use these devices? What effect do they have on the reader and/or how do they contribute to the meaning and message of the poem?

PART 2: Own Poems

Write 3 symbolic poems.

- Each poem must be in a different form – choose from the following options: psalm, ballad, sonnet, villanelle, free verse.
- Each poem should include at least 5 poetic devices/techniques including a symbol.
- One poem must have a rhyme scheme and one must have a meter.
- **Write a short writer's statement** for each poem clearly explaining which devices you used and the effect you intended them to have. Be specific – say WHERE you used it and WHY e.g. "In line 3, I used sibilance because the repeated S sound echoes the hiss of the snake".
- Choose one of your poems and create a decorated version to go on the wall.





Marking Rubric

Performance Standards	A	B	C	D
<p>Poetry analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies form and rhyme/rhythm scheme of poems correctly Identifies all devices correctly Clear and detailed evaluation of the effectiveness of techniques and intended effect on audience Clear and detailed explanation of theme, meaning & messages 				
<p>Own poems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes at least 5 poetic devices including a symbol Devices are thoughtfully chosen and used effectively to communicate theme Clear and detailed explanation of reason for using techniques and intended effect on audience 				
<p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses complete sentences for analysis No mistakes in spelling, grammar, or punctuation Decorated poem is creatively and attractively presented in a way that enhances the meaning 				

