**Poetry Types – Simplified Notes**

**Ballad**

* Narrative poem
* Tell a story – usually about a legendary hero or dramatic event
* Passed down verbally – often set to music
* Usually have a rhyme & rhythm pattern
* Often had a repeating refrain or chorus

**Sonnet**

* 14 lines, ABAB CDCD EFEF GG rhyme scheme
* Iambic pentameter (ten syllables per line, every second syllable emphasised)
* Two main types, English & Italian
* Have a ‘shift’ (change in mood or thought) at line 9

**Psalm**

* Hebrew poem, usually expressing praise and thanks to God
* Structure very important – ideas must be balanced
* Often use parallelism – repeated thoughts in certain order
* In Hebrew often used rhyme, alliteration, acrostics, refrains – don’t always translate well into English
* Use lots of figurative language – personification, hyperbole, metaphors & similes

**Villanelle**

* French poem with specific structure
* Consistent metre & rhythm
* Two repeating refrain lines that repeat all through it
* 19 lines, 6 stanzas
* Introduces idea and then develops on it in each verse, increasing in intensity

**Free Verse**

* No set number of lines
* No rhyme pattern, but use carefully chosen word sounds
* No rhythm pattern, but use words that flow well and have a natural cadence
* Often use enjambment (putting a line break in the middle of a thought or sentence) to hurry the reader on to an important point.