The Science of Poetry

Poetry · Practice Test · 18 Questions

1. What is the formal term for the study of the rhythmic structure of verse?

A) Prosody
B) Syntax
C) Phonology
D) Morphology

2. Which poetic device involves the repetition of identical initial consonant sounds in successive words?

A) Assonance
B) Alliteration
C) Consonance
D) Onomatopoeia

3. A 'meter' in poetry is primarily defined by the arrangement of what?

A) Word length
B) Stressed and unstressed syllables
C) Number of vowels
D) Punctuation marks

4. What is the literary term for a stanza consisting of exactly four lines?

A) Couplet
B) Tercet
C) Quatrain
D) Sestet

5. In English prosody, a 'foot' typically consists of a combination of what?

A) Sentences and clauses
B) Vowels and consonants
C) Stressed and unstressed syllables
D) Upper and lower case letters

6. Which term describes the repetition of similar vowel sounds within nearby words?

A) Assonance
B) Alliteration
C) Hyperbole
D) Personification

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7. A 'couplet' is defined as a sequence of how many lines of verse?

A) One
B) Two
C) Three
D) Four

8. What is the name for a poem that contains fourteen lines and follows a specific rhyme scheme?

A) Haiku
B) Sonnet
C) Ballad
D) Ode

9. Which term refers to words that imitate the natural sounds of the objects they describe?

A) Metaphor
B) Simile
C) Onomatopoeia
D) Hyperbole

10. What is a 'caesura' in a line of poetry?

A) The rhyme scheme
B) A rhythmic break or pause
C) The final word
D) The title

11. A 'haiku' traditionally consists of how many total lines?

A) Three
B) Four
C) Five
D) Six

12. What defines 'rhyme' in a linguistic context?

A) Similarity of word length
B) Repetition of similar sounds in final syllables
C) The use of complex vocabulary
D) The total number of sentences

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13. Which structural unit of a poem functions similarly to a paragraph in prose?

A) Stanza
B) Meter
C) Foot
D) Rhyme

14. What is the term for a line of poetry that does not end with punctuation, causing the thought to continue into the next line?

A) Enjambment
B) Caesura
C) Refrain
D) Stanza

15. An 'iamb' is a metrical foot consisting of what sequence?

A) Two stressed syllables
B) An unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable
C) Two unstressed syllables
D) A stressed syllable followed by an unstressed syllable

16. Which poetic form focuses on a 5-7-5 syllable structure?

A) Limerick
B) Sonnet
C) Haiku
D) Villanelle

17. What is the term for the 'beat' or 'pulse' of a poem?

A) Rhythm
B) Alliteration
C) Assonance
D) Imagery

18. In a poem, what is a 'refrain'?

A) A word that changes meaning
B) A line or phrase repeated at intervals
C) The act of rhyming
D) A break in the meter

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