Poetic Conventions

Theme
The concept(s) the poem is dealing with

Meter/Rhythm
Poetic rhythm→type and number of feet
Four most common metrical feet (basic unit) in English are:
- Iambic: unstressed syllable followed by stressed
- Trochaic: stressed followed by unstressed
- Anapestic: two unstressed followed by stressed
- Dactylic: stressed followed by two unstressed

Lines can be classified by the number of feet:
- Monometer: one foot
- Dimeter: two
- Trimeter: three
- Tetrameter: four
- Pentameter: five
- Hexameter: six

Example of iambic tetrameter:

"Whose woods these are I think I know"

To identify metrical pattern, mark natural stresses on polysyllabic words (many syllables)
The pattern serves the interests of the poet, creating a feeling much as a rhythm to a dance
creates a feeling in the dancers

Rhyme
Repetition of end sounds
A poem, if it rhymes, has a rhyme scheme
Example: AABA BBCB CCDC DDED

Alliteration:
Repetition of initial sounds

Consonance:
Repetition of consonant patterns

Assonance:
Repetition of vowel sounds

Onomatopoeia:
A word that sounds like its phenomenon

Metonymy:
Word standing for something closely related

Enjambment:
Continuation of a syntactic unit from one line or couplet of a poem to the next with no pause

Anaphora:
Deliberate repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive verses, paragraphs or
lines

Synecdoche:
Part standing for a whole

Personification:
Non-human object endowed with human characteristics

Litotes:
Double negative for effect

Diction:
Choice of words

Syntax:
Arrangement of words

Imagery:
Creating internal picture through words

Allusions:
Classical reference

Simile:
Comparison using "like" or "as"

Metaphor:
Comparison making a direct association

Tone:
Attitude

Irony:
What is expressed is not what is intended; a different implication than surface meaning