Introducing the Many Faces of Poetry

By Nyoka Hall

Week 1: What Is Poetry?

Poetry is a type of literature or artistic writing that attempts to stir a reader’s imagination or emotion.

Make it personal: Poetry can be a haven, a voice to the voiceless, a joyful song to the heavy hearted, and a way to grip your heart for the glory of God. It is a tool used in the Word of God to exemplify an extension of God’s creativity. Poetry can also be in the form of a song.

Look around in nature and you will see the amount of detail and creativity the Creator showed in the things He created. Words are not an exception. Take a look at the first words spoken at creation: “Let there be light, and there was light.” God could have simply thought it, and it would have happened, but He chose to speak light into being with words.

In the next twenty weeks, we will explore many types of poetry. My hope is that you will have at least one favorite form of poetry by end of this course.

❖ Day 1 Activity:

Click the link and listen to this song then write how you feel. Use this as your first poem in this course. https://youtu.be/AKG_3u_kdJ8

❖ Day 2 Activity:

Review definition: Poetry is a type of literature or artistic writing that attempts to stir a reader’s imagination or emotion.

Complete the poetic terms matching activity on the next page.
Poetry Terms:

Write the letter of the correct match next to each problem. The words with * will be directly incorporated in this class.

1. _____ Lyric                      a. intentionally exaggerated figures of speech
2. _____ Haiku*                    b. poetry written without a regular rhyme scheme, meter, or form
3. _____ Cinquain                  c. poem that expresses personal feelings or thoughts of the speaker
4. _____ Limerick                  d. brief poem with three lines—1st line, 5 syllables; 2nd, 7; 3rd, 5
5. _____ Free-Verse*              e. five-line stanza
6. _____ Ballard                   f. poem that tells a story in a simple verse form
7. _____ Sonnet*                  g. short lyric poem composed in iambic pentameter, with a twist in meaning, known as a “turn,” toward the end.
8. _____ Hyperbole                 h. humorous poem with five lines and a strong rhythm
9. _____ Meter*                   i. rhythm of syllables in a line of verse or in a stanza of a poem

❖ Day 3 Activity:

Why use poetry/poetic devices? Poets, songwriters, and writers in general enjoy using poetry and poetic devices to enhance their work. Fill in the examples of how poetry/poetic devices can be used below.

Tell a story
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
Express a feeling or mood
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Represent a thought or idea
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Describe and reveal a scene
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

❖ Day 4 Activity:

Memorization: A good skill to have is memorization. Memorization means to commit to memory, or learn by heart. This skill helps promote creativity and a higher level of retention. Practice the poem below and be ready to recite it at the end of the week.

“UNBREAKABLE”
By Belinda Van Rensburg

That evil, wily, ancient snake
Truly believes that he can take
Away my faith; my joy; my peace:
That he can break me piece by piece.
he hits me high
he hits me low
he hits me fast
he hits me slow

he hits me left
he hits me right
But I will not give up the fight!
I will not faint; I will not fall -
For God will help me to stand tall:
He’ll lift me up and make me strong
And I will praise Him all day long.