

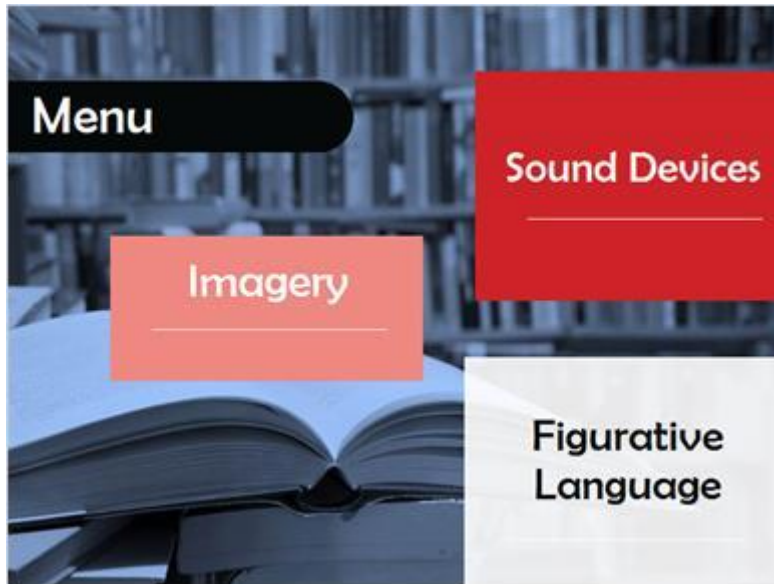
**Module 3: The Influence of Faith on Colonial American Literature**  
Topic 5 Content: Poetic Elements



**Poetic Elements**

## Module 3: The Influence of Faith on Colonial American Literature

### Topic 5 Content: Poetic Elements



Click on each of the shaded boxes to explore elements commonly used in poetry.

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Sound devices appeal to the sense of sound in the poem's structure and are used frequently in poems of all kinds.

- **Alliteration** is the repetition of the consonant sound at the beginning of words. Normally, there must be a least three repetitions per line. *Suzy sells seashells by the seashore.*
- **Consonance** is the repetition of similar final consonant sounds. Typically, there must be a least three repetitions per line. *Cantankerous fools always lose.*
- **Assonance** is the repetition of vowel sounds in stressed syllables. Typically, there must be a least three repetitions per line. *How now brown cow?*
- **Internal rhyme** is the use of rhymes within a poetic line. *The cat always brought his hat.*
- **Onomatopoeia** uses words that sound like the noise they represent. *Snap, crackle, pop*
- **Meter** is the rhythmical pattern of a poem achieved through the use of stressed and unstressed syllables. Iambic pentameter is a common meter with an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable, such as in this line from William Shakespeare's Sonnet XVIII: *"Thou art more lovely and more temperate."*

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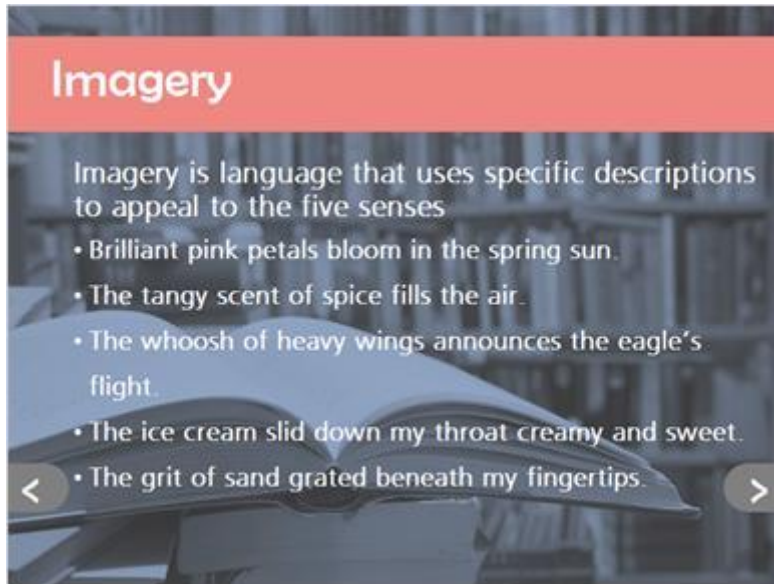


Figurative language is language that is not meant to be taken literally and is an integral part of poetry.

- A **simile** is a direct comparison of dissimilar things using like or as. *The cloud is as fluffy as a sheep.*
- A **metaphor** is an implied comparison in which two very different things are compared by redefining one of them. *Her heart is a steel box.*
- In **personification**, an author gives human qualities to a non-human subject. *The leaves danced a waltz to the breeze's accompaniment.*
- **Hyperbole** is the use of an extreme exaggeration, such as in *It's raining cats and dogs.*
- A **symbol** is a concrete object (something tangible that you can feel or touch or see) that stands for an abstract concept (such as a feeling, idea, belief, institution, etc.). A cross stands for Christianity. A heart can be a symbol of love. A dove symbolizes peace.

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### Topic 5 Content: Poetic Elements



Imagery is language that uses specific descriptions to appeal to the five senses. Examples:

- Brilliant pink petals bloom in the spring sun.
- The tangy scent of spice fills the air.
- The whoosh of heavy wings announces the eagle's flight.
- The ice cream slid down my throat creamy and sweet.
- The grit of sand grated beneath my fingertips.

When analyzing imagery, pay attention to the diction or word choice. Diction refers to the types of words the poet decides to use. It can help you identify the tone or attitude of the poem's speaker.