

Glossary of terms used in poetry and books

- Alliteration - the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words
e.g. sweet silver stream
- Iambic meter - the rhythm of a line as a result of the stresses in the words (short/ long)
e.g. exist, belong
- Metaphor - a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.
e.g. all the world is a stage
- Personification - the attribution of a personal nature or human characteristics to something non-human
e.g. The sun woke up and smiled
- Repetition - the simple repeating of a word, within a sentence or a poetical line, with no particular placement of the words, in order to secure emphasis
- Rhyme - the way that words sound the same at the end of lines in poetry. Poems often have a fixed rhyme-scheme
e.g. Sonnets have 14 lines with fixed rhyme scheme (ABAB CDCD EFEF GG)
- Rhyming couplet - two lines of the same length that rhyme and complete one thought. There is no limit to the length of the lines.
- Similes - a figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more emphatic or vivid
e.g. As brave as a lion



Worcestershire Health Libraries



Reading to patients



A short guide

December 2015

Introduction

Reading to patients has been set up as a service between the Spiritual and Pastoral Care service and Worcestershire Health Libraries. It consists of trained volunteers going on to the ward and, with the agreement of the patients, reading aloud to them. The content is completely decided by the patient.

Bibliotherapy is an expressive therapy that uses an individual's relationship to the content of books and poetry and other written words as therapy.

Storytelling is sometimes known as bibliotherapy. Bibliotherapy can:

- help to improve communication and make a connection with patients
- encourage reminiscence in people with dementia
- reduces boredom, depression and loneliness
- Helps reduce difficult behaviour
- act as an enjoyable distraction

Some advice

Always ask permission from the person in charge before going onto the ward

Ask the patient permission to sit with them

Introduce yourself and the service

Discuss their favourite author and book/ poem

Offer to read extracts

Discuss the content

Follow the lead of the patient

Use open questions when exploring content of poem/ book

Seven basic tips when reading and sharing poetry

1 Read the poem

This might sound daft but follow the punctuation and rhyme of the poem.

2 Work out what it means

Some poems are descriptive and follow a narrative others are more obscure. Discuss what you think was going on.

3 Imagery

Look at the imagery used – metaphors etc. To what affect are they used? Do they enhance the meaning? Are any used at all?

4 Rhyming pattern

Does the poet use a rhyming pattern? What is it? Does it add or distract? Does it break down? If so where and why?

5 Did you like the poem?

There is no wrong or right answer here, did you like it? If so, why? Why didn't you like it?

6 Can you relate to the poem?

Does the poem remind you of anything that has happened to you? How does it make you feel?

7 Compare and contrast

Have you read similar poems? What is different? What is the same? Which poem was better and why?

Contacts

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