POETRY
The Nature of Poetry

• “Poetry focuses more on connotative, emotional, or associate meaning and conveys meaning more through suggestion, indirection, and the use of metaphor, symbol, and imagery than prose does” (MLM 131).
The Elements of Poetry

- Speaker and Tone
- Diction and Syntax
- Figures of speech
- Sound, rhythm, and meter
- Theme
Identify the Speaker and Tone

• The voice we hear in a poem is often a "persona"—a mask that could be the poet’s real voice or a complete fiction.

• Look at the speaker’s tone—the attitude. Sarcastic? Serious?
Be Aware of the Complexities of *Diction* and *Syntax*

- *Syntax*—the order of words
Major Figures of Speech Include *Metaphor* and *Symbols*

- *Metaphor*—comparison without “like” or “as.”
- *Simile*—comparison with “like” or “as.”
- *Symbols*—suggest general ideas. Rarely point in one direction.
Sound, Rhythm, and Meter work together to give a poem a psychological force.

- Rhythm—beat of the poem
- Meter—way of scanning poetry
Don’t Expect a Poem’s Theme to be Straightforward
If You Argue a Point, Make Sure You Have Evidence