CONTENTS

Preface	i
Contents	iii
Chapter 1 What is Poetry?	1
Some features that a poem might have	1
Some definitions of poetry and poems	3
Conclusion	6
Chapter 2 Reading Poetry	7
Some suggestions to help readers understand poems	8
How to understand poems	9
Some elements to find what the poet's intentions are	11
Questions to help in understanding poems	11
Literary appreciation	13
Examples of analyzed poetry	14
Conclusion	17
Poems for practice	18
Chapter 3 The Paraphrase	21
How to write a paraphrase	21
Examples of poetry paraphrasing	22
Conclusion	27
Excerpts from poems for practice	28
Chapter 4 Poetic Diction	31
What is poetic diction?	31
Denotation and connotation	32
Examples of analyzed poetry	34

Conclusion 39
Poems for practice 39
Chapter 5 Poetic License 41
Inversion of order 41
Ellipsis 43
Archaic words – old forms not used in modem English 45
Old third – person verb forms 46
Other old forms 47
Conventional abbreviations 49
Grammar 50
Conclusion 55
Chapter 6 Imagery 56
Sense imagery appeals to the 5 senses 57
Examples of analyzed poetry 61
Poems for practice 68
Conclusion 69
Chapter 7 The Language of Poetry 73
Figurative language or figures of speech 74
Simile 75
Metaphor 77
Examples of analyzed poetry 78
Personification 82
Examples of analyzed poetry 83
Symbol 85
The most common public symbols used in English poetry 87
Examples of analyzed poetry 90

Allusion 94
Examples of analyzed poetry 95
Metonymy 97
Examples of analyzed poetry 98
Synecdoche 99
Allegory 100
Examples of analyzed poetry 100
Apostrophe 102
Examples of analyzed poetry 104
Conclusion 104
Poem for practice 104
Chapter 8 Tone 109
Hyperbole / overstatement / exaggeration 109
Understatement / litotes / meiosis 115
Examples of analyzed poetry 115
Paradox 117
Irony 122
Conclusion 123
Chapter 9 The Forms and Types of Poetry 125
Important Devices 125
Repetition 125
Rhythm 126
Meter 126
Scansion 129
Rhyme 134

Assonance 137
Alliteration 138
Rhyme scheme 139
Onomatopoeia 140
Euphony and cacophony 141
Sound patterns 139
Stanza pattern 142
Blank verse / unrhymed iambic pentameter 149
Free verse 149
Epic 151
Limerick 151
Lyric 152
Ode 153
Pastoral poem 154
Elegy 154
Descriptive poem 154
Narrative poem 154
Conclusion 155
Poems for further reading 155
Appendix
Tentative Answers to Poems for Practice 165
Glossary of Literary and Critical Terms 187
Bibliography 201