

Literary Terms for Shakespeare

Mrs. Gerardi - English 9

1. prose

- Unrhymed, everyday speech or language.
- Poor, common, and uneducated characters often spoke in prose.

2. verse

- Patterned, elevated, poetic speech.
- Rich, powerful, and educated characters often spoke in verse.

Language

➤ Shakespeare *often* used prose and verse to indicate characters' social status.

3. meter

➤ Regularly patterned or rhythmic
lines of verse.

4. blank verse

➤ Unrhymed verse written in iambic pentameter.

5. iambic pentameter

➤ An alternating pattern of unstressed and stressed syllables. There are 10 syllables per line.

➤ unstressed syllable stressed syllable

5. iambic pentameter

- I can't go out because my homework's late.
- The five stressed line is the best one for us.
- I am I am I am I am I am.

5. iambic pentameter

⤵ I CAN'T go OUT beCAUSE my HOMEwork's LATE.

⤵ The FIVE stressed LINE is THE best ONE for US.

⤵ I AM I AM I AM I AM I AM.

A foot

5. iambic pentameter

Five feet total

⤵ I CAN'T|go OUT|beCAUSE|my HOME|work's LATE.

⤵ The FIVE|stressed LINE|is THE|best ONE|for US.

⤵ I AM|I AM|I AM|I AM|I AM.

6. tragedy

- The main character(s) suffer(s) from extreme sorrow, especially because of a tragic flaw, moral weakness, or inability to cope with unfavorable circumstances.



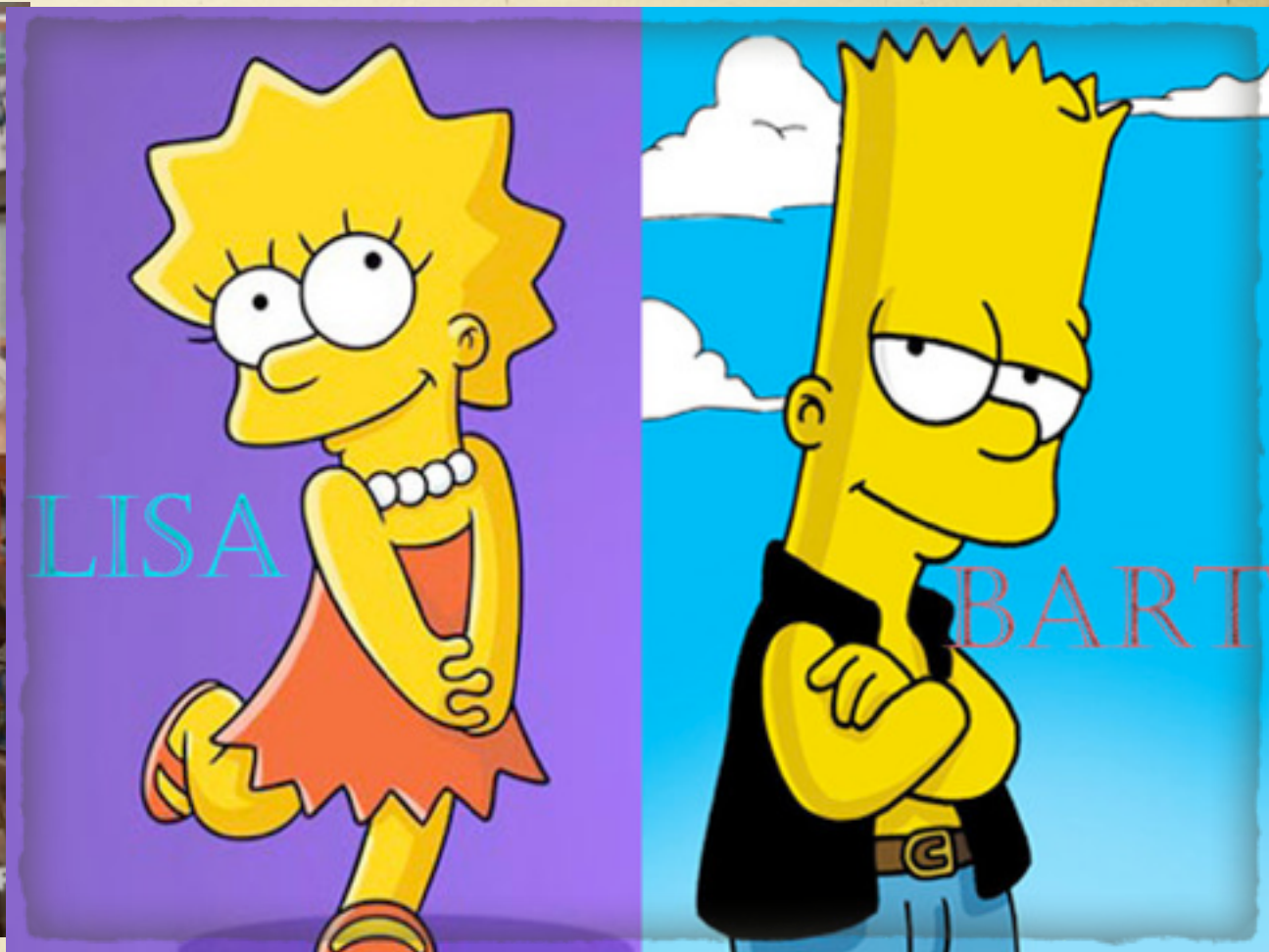
Source: www.fanpop.com

7. foil character

➤ A character who acts as a contrast to another character, thus highlighting the character's personality.



Source: www.bigbangtheory.wikia.com



Source: www.onelowerlight.com

8. chorus

➤ An actor in Elizabethan drama who comments on the play's plot and themes.



Source: www.bard.org

9. aside

➤ A piece of dialogue intended for the audience to hear and not the other characters on stage.



Source: www.cupfourtay.wordpress.com



Source: www.gooderphoto.com

10. soliloquy

➤ A speech made by a character when alone on stage.



Source: www.airshipdaily.com

11. rhyming couplet

- A pair of lines with rhyming end words.
- Shakespeare often used this to end scenes in his plays.
and sonnets!

Sonnet 18 - final pair of lines

So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

Act I.i. - final pair of lines

Romeo: ...Farewell, thou canst not teach me to forget.

Benvolio: I'll pay that doctrine, or else die in debt.

12. oxymoron

- A combination of contradictory words.
- Ex. Hilarious disaster
- Ex. Alone together

13. pun

- A play on words.
- Ex. A horse is a very stable animal.
- Ex. A dog gave birth to puppies on the side of the road and was ticketed for littering.

14. comic relief

➤ A character, scene, or lines of dialogue that relieves the overall emotional intensity.



Source: www.youtube.com; www.tumblr.com



Source: www.emilyblame.blogspot.com