# When Describing Prose or Poetry...

By definition, prose is any writing that's not in verse form (that is, it isn't poetry). In literary terms however, prose deals with:

### anecdotes, short stories, novellas, novels, or speeches

Poetry doesn't have to rhyme. A line of a poem can have one word or many, can have a particular beat or none at all, can rhyme with another line or not. There are

## ballads, elegies, limericks, odes, sonnets

When describing literature, you can use the following terms – if you know their meaning:

biography plot protagonist antagonist ballad parable dialogue foreshadowing paradox point of view novella cliché aphorism irony parody setting symbol metaphor connotation denotation alliteration personification

	The pattern of events in a story, novel, or drama.
biography	A work detailing the events on the life of a real person, written by someone else.
	Conversation between two characters.
	The opponent to the main character (the protagonist).
	The use of hints about what will come.
	The standpoint from which a story is told.
	A work of fiction that's longer than a short story but shorter than a novel.
	The main character, usually but not always the "good guy"
	A short story that teaches a lesson in morality.
	A poem that tells a story and usually has a repeated refrain.
	An overused expression (e.g. over the hill)
	A work that makes fun of or imitates the style of another work, either affectionately or harshly.
	Something that represents something else.
	A comparison without using like or as; (e.g. The prisoner's icy eyes stared at me)
	Giving human qualities to places or things that aren't human (e.g. <i>The sun smiled on her wedding day</i> .)
	A statement that seems to be impossible or contradictory but also seems to be true (e.g. The more I learn, the less I know.)
	The time and place of a story, novel, drama, or poem.
	A short statement of a truth (e.g. Lost time is never found again.)
	The opposite of what is expected to happen or to be said.
	The repetition of beginning sounds in words (e.g. Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse)
	Emotions a word brings to mind (e.g. Heart means love, happiness, care.)
	The dictionary definition of a word (e.g. The heart is a blood pump.)

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#### Protagonist and antagonist