Poetry Terminology and Definitions

1. **Allegory -** A literary, dramatic, or pictorial device in which characters and events stand for   abstract ideas, principles, or forces, so that the literal sense has or suggests a parallel, deeper symbolic sense.
2. **Cantos--**(from the Lat. cantus, a song), one of the divisions of a long poem, a convenient division when poetry was more usually sung by the minstrel to his own accompaniment than read.
3. **Elegy**—A poem or song composed especially as a lament for a deceased person.
4. **Enjambment--**The continuation of a syntactic unit from one line or couplet of a poem to the next with no pause.
5. **Epic poem-** An extended narrative poem in elevated or dignified language, celebrating the feats of a legendary or traditional hero.
6. **Free verse** **--**Verse composed of variable, usually unrhymed lines having no fixed metrical pattern.
7. **Genre --** A category of artistic composition, as in music or literature, marked by a distinctive style, form, or content.
8. **Mood--** A set of verb forms or inflections used to indicate the speaker's attitude toward the factuality or likelihood of the action or condition expressed. In English the indicative mood is used to make factual statements, the subjunctive mood to indicate doubt or unlikelihood, and the imperative mood to express a command.
9. **Motif** **--** A dominant theme or central idea.
10. **Narrative**—Consisting of or characterized by the telling of a story: narrative poetry.
11. **Prose Poem--**a composition printed as prose but distinguished by common in poetry such as elaborately contrived figures of speech, rhyme, internal rhyme, etc.
12. **Rhyme Scheme**—The arrangement of rhymes in a poem or stanza. It is usually represented by small letters:  thus, abcb for the ballad stanza.
13. **Terza Rima—**A verse form of Italian origin consisting of tercets of 10 or 11 syllables with the middle line rhyming with the first and third lines of the following tercet.