

# Glossary of Key Terms

**poesía / spoken-word poetry:** poetry that is meant to be spoken, usually with a purpose; conveys a strong message about people and society

**poetry slam:** a competition in which poets perform their poems and are scored by a panel of judges

## Poetic Devices

- **símil / simile:** comparing two things using “like” or “as”
- **metáfora / metaphor:** comparing two things using “is”
- **personificación / personification:** giving life to an inanimate object or animal by describing it with human-like characteristics
- **repetición / repetition:** repeating a word or phrase to add emphasis
- **imágenes / imagery:** using sensory details that describe how something looks, tastes, feels, sounds, or smells

## Delivery Techniques

- **articulación / enunciation:** clear pronunciation and delivery of words
- **crescendo and decrescendo:** a change in the volume of delivery (*crescendo* is a gradual increase; *decrescendo*, a gradual decrease), which is used to build emotion in a poem
- **énfasis / emphasis:** a strong force used with certain words or phrases to draw attention to them
- **tempo / tempo:** the speed of speech; changing it adds variety and creates a feeling or mood in certain parts of a poem
- **pausa / pause:** a moment of silence that lets the words soak in
- **ritmo / rhythm:** the distinct beat and rhythm of a poem, distinguishing it from a monotone narrative