

POETIC AND LITERARY DEVICES

LITERARY DEVICES/ FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Imagery	“Word pictures” used to create forceful or beautiful images in the reader’s mind
Simile	A comparison of two objects using “like” or “as” the objects compared are usually more unlike than similar Example: She was <u>like</u> a tiger at the sales rack.
Metaphor	A comparison of two objects without using “like” or “as” (comparison is <i>implied</i>) the comparison is <u>NOT</u> meant to be taken literally Example: She <u>was</u> a tiger at the sales rack.
Extended Metaphor	A metaphor where <i>several</i> comparisons are made to the same object. In poetry, this may be for a few lines or the whole poem.
Personification	The giving of human qualities, emotions, or actions to inanimate objects Example: The <u>wind</u> <u>whispered</u> lovingly in her ear.
Hyperbole	Extreme exaggeration Example: I have a <u>ton</u> of homework.
Diction	The author’s choice of words. When you talk about diction, talk about the kind of diction you see, such as romantic, said, angry, calm. Authors use diction to create the tone or mood in their work. Example: “emaciated” instead of “thin”; “sear” instead of “burn”; “scarlet” instead of “red”.
Syntax	The arrangement--ordering, grouping and placement-- of words within a phrase, clause, or sentence. This can include punctuation. Example: you can change the phrase “I rode across the meadow” to “across the meadow I rode” to change the syntax of the phrase.
Allusion	A reference to an outside fact, event or other source (literature, music, etc.) Example: He gathers his stuffed animals like Noah with his ark.



Idiom	Idiom is an expression consisting of a combination of words that has a figurative meaning. For example: “kick the bucket” to mean something has died.
Paradox	A statement that seems to contradict itself, but actually expresses the truth. Example: I always tell lies.
Apostrophe	When the speaker addresses a person who is dead or absent, or imaginary. Example: “Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are ...”
Repetition	When a word or set of words is repeated in a poem. Often used for emphasis or effect.

POETIC STRUCTURE

Line	A row of written or printed words
Stanza	A group of lines separated from other groups by spaces
End-stopped line	When a line of poetry ends with a period or semicolon, or when the line of poetry contains a complete thought
Enjambment	When a sentence, phrase, idea (or all three!) in poetry continues beyond a single line

SOUND DEVICES

Sound devices: The linking of two or more words by common sounds	
Rhyme	[See rhyme notes]
Alliteration	Two or more words that share a common <u>beginning</u> sound Ex: <u>P</u> eter <u>P</u> iper <u>p</u> icked a <u>p</u> eck of <u>p</u> ickled <u>p</u> eppers
Assonance	The repetition of common vowel sounds (<u>anywhere</u> in the word) in two or more words Ex: flying high, winning it



Consonance	<p>The repetition of common consonant sounds (<u>anywhere</u> in the word) in two or more words</p> <p>Ex: <u>hundred</u> <u>wounded</u> <u>hands</u>, <u>softly</u> <u>hissing</u></p>
Onomatopoeia	<p>A word that sounds like the action it describes</p> <p>Ex: bam, zap, zip, buzz, vroom, moo, meow</p>

RHYME

Rhyme	<p>Two or more words linked by an identity in sound which begins with an accented vowel and continues to the end of each word.</p> <p>NOTE: Repetition of a word is NOT technically rhyme, but it is often used in place of rhyme.</p>
Rhyme Scheme	<p>A pattern of rhymed endings which is repeated in each stanza of a metered verse. Notated using capital letters of the alphabet. For example, ABAB CDCD or ABBA CDDC</p>
True Rhyme	<p>Rhyme in which the common sounds are EXACT; the sounds preceding the accented vowel in each word must be <u>unlike</u>. The endings do not have to share the same spelling, but may.</p> <p>Examples: <u>shoe</u> / <u>blue</u> <u>grieve</u> / <u>believe</u></p>
Slant Rhyme	<p>Rhyme in which the common sounds are similar but NOT exact.</p> <p>Examples: <u>grave</u> / <u>alive</u> <u>grass</u> / <u>hiss</u></p>
Double Rhyme	<p>A two-syllable rhyme in which both syllables are EXACT in sound.</p> <p>Examples: <u>running</u> / <u>sunning</u> <u>tanning</u> / <u>fanning</u></p>
End rhyme	<p>Rhymes occur at the end of lines.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Roses are <u>red</u>, Violets are <u>blue</u>. I'm stuck in <u>bed</u> At home with the <u>flu</u>.</p>
Eye Rhyme	<p>A type of rhyme in which the sounds do NOT rhyme, but the spelling of the word makes it appear as if it does or should.</p> <p>(Note: Eye rhymes are often also slant rhymes, but not always. For instance, it is in the first example below, but not in the second.)</p> <p>Examples: <u>move</u> / <u>stove</u> <u>enough</u> / <u>through</u></p>



Internal Rhyme	<p>Rhymes may occur within the same line or across lines, not just at the end.</p> <p>Example from “Annabel Lee,” by Edgar Allen Poe:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">For the moon never <u>beams</u> without bringing me <u>dreams</u> Of the beautiful Annabel Lee; And the stars never <u>rise</u> but I see the bright <u>eyes</u> Of the beautiful Annabel Lee.</p>
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RHYTHM

Rhythm	A repeated pattern of sound a flow of words and phrases based on syllables and stress
Syllable	A basic unit of pronunciation forming part or all of a word the number of “efforts” required to say a word
Stress	The force or emphasis placed on a syllable
Meter	A system of stressed and unstressed syllables that creates rhythm
Foot	A unit of stressed and unstressed syllables. A basic unit of measure in verse (poetry)
Iamb	One foot of two syllables, the second one stressed: “ta- <i>tum</i> ” examples: <i>except</i> ; the <i>deer</i>
Pentameter	A line of 5 feet
Iambic pentameter	<p>A line of 5 feet, 10 syllables total</p> <p>Example:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">And death was breeding in his lively eyes I started in to cry and call his name</p>