

Name: _____

POETIC DEVICES

I) Sound Devices

1. **Alliteration**- Repetition of initial consonant sound

Ex. The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew, /The furrow followed free

2. **Assonance**- Repetition of vowel sounds (partial rhyme)

Ex. Sigh of the times. When I have fears that I may cease to be...

3. **Consonance**- Repetition of consonant sound (not necessarily initial)

Ex. To be al alone beyond my lover's call...

4. **Onomatopoeia**- Word imitates the sound it describes

Ex. The buzzing of the bees, the hiss of the snake, the crackle of the fire

5. **Rhyme**- Similarity of sound in words

Ex. Fly, cry, my, sigh, die, goodbye

6. **Rhyme Scheme**- Pattern of rhyme within a stanza or poem, usually

indicated by letters of the alphabet

Ex.	...steeple	a
	...town	b
	...people	a
	...down	b

II) Figures of Speech

1. **Allusion**- Reference to a historical or literary figure or event

Ex. Ralph is such a Scrooge when he buys presents.

2. **Apostrophe**– Someone absent or something non–human is spoken to as if it were present, alive, and able to respond

Ex. O Canada, we stand on guard for thee. Summer, I wish you'd hurry!

3. **Hyperbole**– Exaggeration or overstatement

Ex. I have tons of homework! Samantha hit the ceiling when she heard Jo's excuse.

4. **Imagery**– Formation of mental images or figures

5. **Metaphor**– Comparison of two dissimilar objects without using *like* or *as*

Ex. Elvira is a monster when she's angry. A blanket of snow covered the ground.

6. **Oxymoron**– Two contradictory words or phrases combined to produce a meaning or a rhetorical effect by means of a concise paradox

Ex. She is terribly happy. He is a cheerful pessimist. Mom is an unwilling volunteer.

7. **Personification**– Giving human qualities to inanimate or non–human objects

Ex. Fear crept through the tiny village. Angry skies threatened the picnickers.

8. **Paradox**– Apparent contradiction that is actually true

Ex. The more a man learns, the more he realizes how little he knows.

9. **Simile**– Comparison between two dissimilar objects using like or as

Ex. He ran like a scared cat. She was as light as a feather.

10. **Symbol** – an object, person or action that has meaning or significance beyond itself

Ex. White symbolizes innocence & purity. Spring represents rebirth.

11. **Understatement** – The opposite of hyperbole; describes or downplays something as being less than it is; is used to make something appear smaller or less important than it really is

Ex. “You could have killed him, but you just left him to die.”

III) Versification

1. **Blank Verse**–Lines using iambic pentameter and have no particular rhyme scheme
2. **Couplet**– A stanza of two lines
3. **Free Verse**– No consistency in line length, rhythm or rhyme
4. **Octave**– An eight line poem or stanza
5. **Quatrain**– A stanza or poem of four lines
6. **Rhyming Couplet**– Two lines of poetry that rhyme
7. **Sestet**– A six line poem or stanza
8. **Stanza**– A group of two or more lines in a poem
9. **Tercet**– A stanza of three lines rhyming together or connected by rhyme
10. **Verse**– a single line of poem

IV) Poetic Forms

1. Narrative Poems – Records events, tells a story; has characters, plot, setting, conflict, etc.
 - a) **Ballad**– A song which tells a story composed in stanzas and meant to be sung
 - b) **Epic**– A long narrative poem which tells of the adventures of heroic characters, covers a long period of time or describes some monumental task
2. Lyric Poems – Subjective poem; expresses poet's feelings
 - a) **Elegy** – A mournful, melancholy poem, especially a song of lament for the dead
 - b) **Ode** – A form of lyric poem with a dignified, sincere language, serious in tone, and usually in praise of something or somebody
 - c) **Sonnet** – 14 line poem, using iambic pentameter; 2 main forms–
 - I. Shakespearean/English/Elizabethan Sonnet–
 - II. Petrarchan/Italian Sonnet–
3. Descriptive Poems – more objective poem; depicts and describes a scene rather than expressing feelings