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

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

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

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

Ex. To be all alone beyond my lover’s call…

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

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

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

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

1. **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.

1. **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!

1. **Hyperbole**- Exaggeration or overstatement

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

1. **Imagery**- the use of vivid, descriptive language that appeals to the senses
2. **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.

1. **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.

1. **Personification**- Giving human qualities to inanimate or non-human objects

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

1. **Paradox**- Apparent contradiction that is actually true

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

1. **Simile**- Comparison between two dissimilar objects using like or as

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

1. **Symbol** – an object, person or action that has meaning or significance beyond itself; using a concrete object to represent something abstract

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

1. **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 poetry

**IV) Poetic Forms**

1. **Narrative Poems** – Records events, tells a story; has characters, plot,

setting, conflict, etc.

* 1. **Ballad**- A song which tells a story composed in stanzas and meant to be sung
  2. **Epic**- A long narrative poem which tells of the adventures of heroic characters, covers a long period of time or describes some monumental task

1. **Lyric Poems** - Subjective poem; expresses poet’s feelings
   1. **Elegy** – A mournful, melancholy poem, especially a song of lament for the dead
   2. **Ode** – A form of lyric poem with a dignified, sincere language, serious in tone, and usually in praise of something or somebody
   3. **Sonnet** – 14 line poem, using iambic pentameter; 2 main forms-
2. Shakespearean/English/Elizabethan Sonnet-
3. Petrarchan/Italian Sonnet-
4. **Descriptive Poems** – more objective poem; depicts and describes a scene rather than expressing feelings