**POETIC TERMS & 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; sound words

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, high

1. **End rhyme** – rhyme at the end of lines

Ex. I cherish the loving way

He treats me every day

1. **Internal rhyme** – rhyme within a line

Ex. A sign of the times. The golden trees shimmered in the breeze.

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 gifts.

1. **Hyperbole**- Exaggeration or overstatement

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

1. **Imagery**- Using 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. **Personification**- Giving human qualities to inanimate or non-human objects/things/animals

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

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** – using something concrete –object, person, or action - to represent something abstract – an idea or emotion.

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

**III) Versification**

1. **Blank Verse**-Lines using iambic pentameter without a rhyme scheme
2. **Couplet**- A stanza of two lines
3. **Free Verse**- No consistency in line length, rhythm or rhyme
4. **Quatrain**- A stanza or poem of four lines
5. **Rhyming Couplet**- Two lines of poetry that rhyme
6. **Stanza**- A group of two or more lines in a poem
7. **Verse**- a single line of poem

**IV) Poetic Forms**

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

setting, etc.

* 1. **Ballad**- A poem typically about disasters, love, or outlaws with setting, characters, conflict, and plot. Written in quatrains in simple language with a clear rhyme scheme and some repetition.
  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