

Name:
Hour:
Date:

Poetic Devices

- ❖ **Motif**- a reoccurring theme, idea, subject, etc. in writing, music, or art
Ex: Many African American poems have motifs of freedom, slavery, hope, and oppression etc.
Ex: Many of Shakespeare's motifs are love, death, and revenge

- ❖ **Repetition**- restating an idea, theme, word, etc. in order to better prove a point
Ex: "Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise." –Maya Angelou

- ❖ **Simile**- Comparison between two different things using the words "like" or "as"
Ex: Her blond hair was as golden as the sun.
Ex: Her face looked red like a tomato.

- ❖ **Metaphor**- Analogy or comparison of two objects/ideas to express similarity
Ex: The warriors are tigers on the battlefield.

- ❖ **Allusion**- A reference or mention of another literary work, event, person, or character.
Ex: The lightning struck so suddenly that I expected to see Zeus outside my door.

- ❖ **Personification**- Giving human characteristics to inanimate objects
Ex: It was so windy that the trees were swaying and dancing.

- ❖ **Imagery**- Writing that appeals to the five senses, that is very strong in sensory details and allows you to form mental images

Ex: The sweet, soft, fresh scent of spring filled my nose as I saw the bright yellow roses budding for the first time in the season.

❖ **Voice**- When the author or poet's personality and character comes through his writing

Ex: In "Flowers for Algernon" when Charlie writes his progress reports, the readers (audience) can tell how Charlie changes after the surgery through his writing which shows his personality, attitudes, and thoughts.

❖ **Audience**- Who the author is writing for, the recipients

Ex: In "Brown vs. The Board of Education" the audience is anyone wanting to gain knowledge about this topic, ranging from students to parents to lawyers.

Ex: In "The Giver" the audience is more youth-orientated since its characters children and young adults experiencing what it is like to grow up.

❖ **Tone**- The mood, feeling and attitude the author expresses in the writing

Ex: "Atticus was feeble: he was nearly fifty." -*To Kill a Mockingbird*: Shows the naive tone of the young narrator, Scout, because she thinks that being 50 is extremely old.

Ex: "I just broke up with someone I spent my entire life with. I don't have a heart anymore. I've lost my life." -*Boy Meets World*: The tone is sad, lonely, about heartbreak, etc.

❖ **Stanza**- An arrangement of a certain number of lines, typically 4 or more, which forms the division of a poem

Ex: I Love To Write
(First Stanza)

I love to write
Day and night
What would my heart do
But cry, sigh and be blue
If I could not write

(Second Stanza)

Writing feels good
And I know it should
Who could have knew
That what I do
Is write, write, write
- Unknown Author

- ❖ **Alliteration**- Two or more stressed syllables with the same consonant sound or the beginning of two or more words with the same letter.
Ex: Stem to stern
Ex: Silly sisters sitting silently

- ❖ **Symbolism**- When an object, picture, word, sound, etc. represents something else by association or resemblance.
Ex: In the The Hunger Games Katniss' mockingjay pin is a symbol of hope as she leaves her district to fight in the Games.