



Repetition: repeating the same word or phrase to make it memorable, or to show significance.

Stanza: a division of 2 or more lines having a fixed length, meter, or rhyme scheme. Depending on the number of lines, stanzas might have different names (i.e. 2 lines = couplet, 3 lines = tercet)

Free Verse: Poetry that does not conform to a regular meter or rhyme scheme. Poets who write in free verse try to reproduce the natural rhythms of spoken language.



Alliteration: The repetition of initial consonant sounds used especially in poetry to emphasize and link words as well as to create pleasing, musical sounds. Example—the fair breeze blew, the white foam flew.

Onomatopoeia: The use of words that imitate sounds. Examples would be hiss, buzz, swish, and crunch.

Diction: a specific choice of words an author uses to convey specific characterization or attitudes.

Connotation: a meaning that is implied by a specific word apart from its dictionary definition. Connotations can be positive or negative. Example - Childish vs. Youthful: childish implies immaturity, youthful implies playfulness, or beauty.



Tone: an attitude towards a subject. Tone is usually conveyed through choice of words. *Important for the DIET approach.

Speaker: the voice that "speaks" in the poem. Be careful not to confuse this with the poet or writer.

Rhythm: the long and short patterns of poems through stressed and unstressed syllables.

Rhyme/Rhyme Scheme: a pattern of the same sounds within a poem.



Simile: comparison of two things using the words "like" or "as," e.g. "Her smile was as cold as ice."

Metaphor: comparison of two things essentially different but with some commonalities; does not use "like" or "as," e.g. "Her smile was ice."

Hyperbole: a purposeful exaggeration for emphasis or humor.

Personification: human qualities attributed to an animal, object, or idea, e.g. "The wind exhaled."

Imagery: Words or phrases that appeal to the reader's senses. Sensory Imagery: Visual (Sight), Tactile (Touch), Auditory (Hear), Olfactory (Smell)

Further Techniques

Irony: A technique that involves surprising, interesting, or amusing contradictions or contrasts. Verbal irony occurs when words are used to suggest the opposite of their usual meaning. An irony of situation is when an event occurs that directly contradicts expectations.

Symbol: Person, place, or thing that represents something beyond itself, most often something concrete or tangible that represents an abstract idea.

Allusion: A reference to a well-known person, place, event, literary work, or work of art to enrich the reading experience by adding meaning.

Example – Ariana Grande's "Thank U Next" music video alludes to popular movies such as Mean Girls, 13 Going on 30, and Legally Blonde.

Further Techniques

Humor: The quality of a literary or informative work that makes the character and/or situations seem funny, amusing, or ludicrous.

Style: The distinctive way that a writer uses language including such factors as word choice, sentence length, arrangement, and complexity, and the use of figurative language and imagery.

Theme: the main idea or underlying message of a given piece of work – these ideas and messages can be direct or indirect, major or minor. Do not confuse these with topics, which are often one word (ex. 'love', or 'war'), or clichés, like "Patience is a virtue". Themes are specific statements, such as "Corruption destroys the purest relationships."

Further Techniques

Characterization: Techniques a writer uses to create and develop a character by what: he/she does or says, other characters say about him/her, or how they react to him/her, the author reveals directly or through a narrator.

Juxtaposition: when two or more ideas, places, characters, or actions are placed "side by side" in a piece, specifically to draw out comparisons and contrasts.

Parallelism: can refer to the ways that parts of a line or a sentence are the same; or are similar in sound and meter.

Example – "Easy come, easy go," or "I came, I saw, I conquered."