

Name: _____

Date: _____

AP Literature & Composition

Mrs. Beno

Poetic Technique

Alliteration: repetition of identical or similar consonant sounds, normally at the beginning of words

Allusion: a direct or indirect reference to something which is presumable commonly known, such as an event, book, myth, place, or work of art

Ambiguity: double meanings

Antithesis: direct contrast of structurally parallel word groupings – sink-swim, best-worst

Apostrophe: speaker addresses remarks to a dead person, an absent person or a non-human object
Assonance: repetition of identical or similar vowel sounds - “A land laid waste with all its young men slain” 3

Consonance: repetition of the same or similar final consonant sounds on accented syllables or in important words – tick tock, singsong,

Details: facts included or omitted to create effects or evoke responses

Diction: author’s purposeful use of words – denotative and connotative meaning of words

Hyperbole: exaggerated statements -- Your eyes are as bright as the sun!

Imagery/Images: sensory details: visual, auditory, smell, touch, taste
Internal rhyme: repetition of sounds within the same line

Irony: opposite of the expected: verbal, situational, dramatic

Metaphor: direct comparison between two unlike things - war is a razor

Metonymy: object is used to represent something to which it is closely related: scepter & crown = royalty

Onomatopoeia: use of a word whose sound imitates or suggests its meaning

Oxymoron: contradiction of terms – jumbo shrimp, honest thief, sweet sorrow

Paradox: appears contradictory or opposed to common sense, but contains a degree of truth or validity

Personification: author presents or describes concepts, animals, or inanimate objects by endowing them with human attributes or emotions

Pun: a play on words -- Eve was nigh Adam; Adam was naive

Rhyme: repetition of vowel sounds in accented syllables and all succeeding syllables

Simile: comparison using like or as

Symbols: generally, anything that represents or stands for something else

Syntax: arrangement of words within sentences OR of sentences within paragraph

Synecdoche: a part represents the whole: hands = person, all hands on deck

Understatement: ironic minimalizing of fact: understatement presents something as less significant than it is

Always analyze how poetic devices operate in conveying the effect and meaning of the passage or poem. In other words, you must always support your ASSERTIONS with specific detail, evidence and explanation!