

Poetic Devices

I. Match the word, with the definitions. These are things you need to remember about poetry for your quiz.

Words:

alliteration
metonymy
assonance
hyperbole
imagery

metaphor
synecdoche
onomatopoeia
paradox (oxymoron)
personification

rhyme
irony
simile
symbol
repetition

Definitions:

- 1) _____: repeated consonant sounds often found at the beginning of words.
- 2) _____: the recurrence of words and phrases for effect.
- 3) _____: words that sound like their meanings.
- 4) _____: repeated vowel sounds.
- 5) _____: a comparison using "like" or "as."
- 6) _____: exaggeration used for effect.
- 7) _____: a direct comparison.
- 8) _____: treating a non-human thing with human characteristics.
- 9) _____: substituting one word or phrase for another that is closely related.
- 10) _____: a seeming contradiction (that may actually be true).
- 11) _____: a part represents the whole.
- 12) _____: an object that represents something else.
- 13) _____: something said that is opposite its intended meaning.
- 14) _____: word endings that sound alike including the final vowel sound.
- 15) _____: the use of vivid language to generate ideas and/or evoke emotion via the senses: **SIGHT, SOUND, TOUCH, TASTE, SMELL (identify each in the examples of irony)**

II. Match the word, with the examples. Explain (specifically) why it is an example of that poetic device.

Words:

alliteration
metonymy
assonance
hyperbole
smell
sight
touch

metaphor
synecdoche
onomatopoeia
paradox (oxymoron)
personification
sound

rhyme
irony
simile
symbol
repetition
taste

Examples:

- a) _____ Fast and furious.

Explanation:

- b) _____ He's a bruisin' loser.

Explanation:

- c) _____ I was so so so so glad.

Explanation:

d) _____ Swoosh, Zip, Gurgle

Explanation:

e) _____ He's as dumb as an ox.

Explanation:

f) _____ The days crept by slowly.

Explanation:

g) _____ The White House stated today that...

Explanation:

h) _____ He weighs a ton.

Explanation:

i) _____ She is a blank white paper.

Explanation:

j) _____ After practice the football player hung his spikes in his locker.

Explanation:

k) _____ A small cross by the dangerous curve on the road reminded all of Johnny's death.

Explanation:

l) _____ The faster I go the more behind I get. (Others: Jumbo shrimp, fresh frozen, act naturally, plastic glasses, seriously funny, weekly special, deafening silence, cruel love.)

Explanation:

m) _____ Wow, thanks for expensive gift...let's see: did it come with a Happy Meal or the Burger King equivalent?

Explanation:

n) _____ Time, slime, mime

Explanation:

o) _____ Smoke mysteriously puffed out from the clown's ears.

Explanation:

p) _____ Tom placed his ear tightly against the wall; he could hear a faint but distinct thump thump thump.

Explanation:

q) _____ The burlap wall covering scraped against the little boy's cheek.

Explanation:

r) _____ A salty tear ran across onto her lips.

Explanation:

s) _____ Cinnamon! That's what wafted into his nostrils.

Other words to know:

line: written text before a break
narrator/speaker: the person telling the story in the poem
stanza: a group of lines in a poem
author/poet: the writer of the poem

connotation: what the word suggests
denotation: definition of the word
tone: attitude toward the subject or reader

mood: the way the poem makes the reader feel (happy, sad, etc.)
attitude: the way the author, narrator or speaker feels
poem: a creative, expressive, piece of literature