English 10

Figurative and Aural Poetic Terms and Devices

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Definition** | **Example** |
| alliteration | Repetition of beginning consonant sounds | The kitty cat crept through a crowded coatroom |
| allusion | Reference to a presumably famous person, place or event | He was a real Robin Hood |
| hyperbole | A purposeful exaggeration | I was so hungry I thought I would die. |
| imagery | A mind picture created through vivid description | The wind sent her fine long golden hair in every direction and created the effect of millions of silkworms spinning gold in the warm evening sky. |
| metaphor | A comparison between to unlike things | My brother is a pig. |
| onomatopoeia | A word that has the same sound as its meaning. | Quack, bark, sigh etc... |
| oxymoron | Placing two contradictory elements beside one another for effect | Jumbo shrimp, pretty ugly, calm storm |
| paradox | A statement that at first appears to be untrue but on further examination proves to be true | I must be cruel only to be kind  (Hamlet) |
| personification | Giving human qualities to non-human things | The hands on the clock marched quickly through the day, allowing me no time to think. |
| rhyme | Repetition of sounds, usually at the ends of lines of poetry | Little boy blue,  Has lost his shoe,  And doesn’t know what to do. |
| rhyme scheme | A pattern created by the rhyme in a poem.  This is labelled with letters to identify the pattern. | A flea and a fly in a flu, A  Were imprisoned, so what could they do? A  Said the flea, “let us fly!” B  Said the fly, “let us flee!” C  So they flew through a flaw in the flu. A |
| rhythm | The stresses and un-stresses of the poem that create its musical quality. |  |
| simile | A comparison between two unlike things using like or as. | His surprised eyes were as wide as saucers and as deep as the ocean. |
| stanza | A grouping of lines of poetry not unlike the paragraph in writing |  |
| symbol | The use of one thing to represent another | Dove = peace |
| verse | The lines of a poem |  |

Refrain - line or lines repeated at intervals during a poem or music

Blank verse - unrhymed iambic pentameter

Free verse - verse lacking end rhyme, regular rhythm, or regulated stanza and line length. Instead it relies on natural speech rhythms

Ballad - a narrative poem, usually short and simple, originally intended to be sung

Lyric - a brief music-like poem about nature, love or death expressing strong emotions or thoughts. (Note: the term “lyrics” is used to describe the words of a song)

Sonnet - a lyric poem consisting of fourteen lines, usually with a complicated rhyme pattern

*Elizabethan/Shakespearean Sonnet* – consists of three quatrains (stanzas of four lines, rhyming ABAB CDCD EFEF) followed by a rhyming couplet (GG) Typically the quatrains establish the theme and the couplet closes the poem with a main point or paradoxical observation.

*Petrarchan/Italian Sonnet* – consists of an octave (rhyming ABBA ABBA) and a sestet (rhyming CDE CDE) This sonnet often presents a probelme in the octave and the answer in the sestet.