**Poetic Devices**

**Paradox** - A statement that seems to contradict itself, but in reality expresses a possible truth.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Pun** - A play on words that are identical or similar in sound but have sharply different meanings. It is used for serious or comic effect.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Repetition** - A device in which words, sounds and/or ideas are used more than once to enhance rhythm and to create emphasis.

**Simile** - A figure of speech that expresses resemblance between things of different kinds using 'like' or 'as'.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Onomatopoeia** - A word that phonetically imitates, resembles or suggests the source of the sound that it describes.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Oxymoron** - A form of paradox that combines a pair of opposite terms into a single unusual expression.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Personification** - A figure of speech in which an object or animal is given human feelings, thoughts or attitudes.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Metaphor** - Uses two nouns and compares or contrasts them to one another without using 'like' or 'as'.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Hyperbole** - A deliberate, extravagant and often outrageous exaggeration used for either serious or comic effect.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Symbol** - An image that means something more than is shown.

**Irony** - A contrast between appearance and reality. Usually one in which reality is opposite from what it seems. When one thing is expected to happen or be and the exact opposite occurs.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Allusion** - A reference to a statement, person, place or event from literature, mythology, history, the Bible or the arts.

**Cliche** - A saying that is so common it is no longer interesting. Many similes, metaphors and idioms are clichés.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Motif** - A recurrent element in a literary work such as a pattern or strand of imagery or symbolism.

**Imagery** - Words that paint a picture that appeal to your five senses.

**Idiom** - An accepted expression that has a figurative rather than a literal meaning.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Epiphany** - A sudden striking realization or understanding of something, or an 'ah ha!' moment.

**Satire** - Writing that ridicules something, often in order to bring about change; satire can poke at a person, a group of people, an attitude or a social situation.

**Tone** - The author's attitude toward a subject, character or audience.

**Mood** - Emotional response of the reader to the text.

**Theme** - A central message or insight into life revealed through a literary work; a universal lesson about life or human nature.

**Alliteration** - Repetition of the initial consonant sound in words.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Assonance** - Repetition of vowel sounds.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Consonance** - Repetition of consonant sounds in the middle or at the end of words; also known as near rhyme or off rhyme.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Enjambment** - When the writer uses line breaks meaningfully and abruptly to either emphasize a point or to create dual meanings.

**Rhyme** - When the end or final sound of two or more words are identical.

**Rhythm** - When the arrangement of words creates an audible patter or beat when read out loud.

**Apostrophe** – When someone speaks directly to someone who is not present or is dead or speaks to an inanimate object.