

## Poetic Devices/Literary Terms/ Figures of Speech

alliteration- a series of words which begin with the same letter (usually a consonant)

anaphora- the repetition of a word with the same or different inflection at the beginning of successive clauses or phrases.

apostrophe –the dramatic turning away to address an absent person as if the person were present.

assonance – the close repetition of similar sounds, generally vowels, usually at the middle or end of words.

asyndeton – the omission of conjunctions between words, phrases, clauses or sentences.

antithesis-the side by side placement of words or phrases opposite in meaning, often with a parallel grammatical structure.

aposiopesis – an abrupt or deliberate pause in a sentence

chiasmus- the arrangement of pairs of words in an **A B B A** order

ellipsis – the omission of a word or words easily inferred from the context.

enjambment – the running-on of one line to the next. This usually calls attention to the part that is running over

framing – a line or lines of verse enclosed by two closely connected words or phrases.

hendiadys - two nouns connected by a conjunction in the sense of a noun modified by an adjective or a genitive

hyperbaton- the wide separation of a noun and its adjective

hyperbole – the use of exaggeration to heighten a dramatic effect or description.

hysteron-proteron – the reversal of the natural order of ideas (*was buried and died*)

juxtaposition – the placing of two words side by side for emphasis or contrast

litotes- a double negative, the assertion of something by denying the opposite

metaphor – a form of comparison that uses words or phrases to imply a likeness between what is described and something else.

metonymy – the substitution of one word for another closely related to it. (*lumina* = eyes)

onomatopoeia-the matching of the sound of a line or phrase or word and the thing it describes.

personification-giving human characteristics to inanimate things

polysyndeton- excessive use of conjunctions

synchysis – a word order in which agreeing words are interlocked – **A B A B**

syncope – the shortening of a word by contracting or dropping a syllable (*petiere-* for *petiverunt*)

synecdoche –using a part to stand for the whole

simile- comparing using *like* or *as*

tnesis – the separation of two parts of a compound word

zeugma – a condensed expression in which one word, usually a verb, is meant to stand for two or more ideas