

## **Cheat Sheet of 20 Common Poetic Devices**

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Figurative Language: | writing or speech not meant to be interpreted literally but used to create vivid expressions                                                                                              |
| Imagery:             | a word or phrase that appeals to one or more of the five senses                                                                                                                           |
| Simile:              | a figure of speech in which “like” or “as” is used to make a comparison of two basically unlike ideas                                                                                     |
| Metaphor:            | a figure of speech which one thing is spoken of as though it were something else                                                                                                          |
| Extended Metaphor:   | differs from a regular metaphor in that several comparisons are made and the metaphor sustains the comparison for several lines of the entire poem                                        |
| Personification:     | a type of figurative language in which a non-human subject is given human characteristics                                                                                                 |
| Hyperbole:           | an exaggeration                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Alliteration:        | the repetition of initial consonant sounds                                                                                                                                                |
| Assonance:           | the repetition of vowel sounds followed by different consonants                                                                                                                           |
| Consonance:          | the repetition in two or more words of final consonants                                                                                                                                   |
| Onomatopoeia:        | the use of words that imitate sounds                                                                                                                                                      |
| Dialect:             | form of language spoken by people in a particular region or group                                                                                                                         |
| Allusion:            | a reference to a well-known person, place, event, and literary work                                                                                                                       |
| Symbolism:           | literary device where something stands for or represents something else                                                                                                                   |
| Repetition:          | the use, more than once, of any element of language – a sound, a word, a phrase, a clause, or a sentence                                                                                  |
| Meter:               | the rhythmical pattern of a poem that is determined by the number and types of stresses, or beats, in each line                                                                           |
| Rhyme:               | the repetition of sounds at the end of words                                                                                                                                              |
| Internal Rhyme:      | occurs when the rhyming words appear in the same line                                                                                                                                     |
| Rhyme Scheme:        | the regular pattern of rhyming words in a poem that is indicated by using different letters of the alphabet for each new rhyme                                                            |
| Stanza:              | is a formal division of lines in a poem, considered a unit. Stanzas are sometimes named according to the number of lines found in them: couplet-2, tercet-3; quatrain-4; cinquain-5 etc.) |