**allusion**: a casual and brief reference to a famous historical or literary figure or event. The best sources for allusions are literature, history, Greek mythology, and the Bible

**alliteration**: the recurrence of initial consonant sounds-the repetition is *usually* limited to two words **Example**: “Ah, what a **d**elicious **d**ay!”

**anaphora:** repetition of word(s) for meaning **Example**: “blood” in Book the Second

**apostrophe:** A direct address to an absent or dead person or to an object, quality, or idea

Example: “O Captain, My Captain” was written upon the death of Abraham Lincoln (Whitman)

**assonance:** repetition of similar vowel sounds in a sequence of nearby words. **Example:** “sainted radiant maiden”

**cacophony:** the clash of discordant or harsh sounds within a sentence or phrase

**connotation/denotation:** the literary (dictionary) meaning of a word is its **denotation**. The **connotation** of a word involves feelings and emotions associated with it.

**hyperbole**: a figure of speech in which deliberate exaggeration is used for emphasis. **Example**: waiting for ages \* tons of money \* a flood of tears \* I nearly died laughing\* I tried a thousand times

**imagery:** representation through language of sensory experience either visual, sound (auditory image), smell (olfactory image), taste (gustatory image), touch (tactile image), or internal sensation (organic image), or movement or tension in muscles (kinesthetic image).

**juxtaposition:** two items placed side by side to create an effect, reveal an attitude, or accomplish a purpose **Example**: “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness…” (Dickens 13).

**metaphor**: a comparison is made between two seemingly unrelated subjects without using *like* or *as*. **Example**: “All the world’s a stage” (Shakespeare) **extended metaphor:** metaphor that are carried over many lines

**metonymy**: the substitution of one term for another that is generally associated with it.

**Example:** “suits” instead of businessmen

**onomatopoeia**: the use of words which in their pronunciation suggest their meaning **Example:** hiss, bang, crunch, buzz, snap, crackle, pop, etc…

**parallelism:** use of two or more words, phrases, or sentences with the same grammatical structure **Example**: “Before, a joy proposed; behind, a dream denied”

**personification**: the metaphorical representation of an animal or inanimate object as having human attributes—attributes of form, character, feelings, behavior, and so on—as the name implies, a thing or idea is treated as a person **Example:** The tree cried aloud, begging for attention.

**simile**: a figure of speech in which one thing is likened to another, in such a way as to clarify and enhance an image. It is an explicit comparison, recognizable by the use of **“like” or “as.”** **Example**: Her vanity bled **like** a rusty nail.

**synecdoche:** a form of metonymy in which a part of an entity is used to refer to the whole

**Example**: “wheels” for “my car”

**synaesthesia:** the use of one kind of sensory experience to describe another **Example:** “heard melodies are sweet” (Keats)

**symbolism:** an object, animate or inanimate, which represents or stands for something else

**theme:** The essential idea, group of ideas, or philosophy that the writer wants the reader to understand from the story she is telling.

**tone**: the attitude of style or expression used to write