**LITERARY TERMS/FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE NOTES**

**FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE:** Language expanded beyond its ordinary literal meaning.

**Speaker:** The imaginary voice assumed by the writer of a poem, the one describing the events in a poem.

**Line:** The “sentences” of a poem. They do not need punctuation.

**Stanza:** The “paragraphs” of a poem. All the lines grouped together make up a stanza.

EX: The way a crow

Shook down on me

The dust of snow

From a hemlock tree

**Voice:** A writer’s unique style of expression; reveals much about the writer’s personality, beliefs and attitudes.

A writer’s style can be: serious, humorous, sad, etc.

**Imagery:** Words or phrases that appeal to one or more of the five senses and help to create a vivid description for the reader.

EX: The creek sparkled in the morning sun. The surrounding trees shown every color of fall: orange, yellow, red, green, brown and purple. The man in the boat slowly rowed, breathing in the crisp, cold autumn air and smiled and he listened to nature calling around him.

**Repetition:** The repeated use of words or phrases in order to emphasize a point.

EX: “Go away, please. Go away, go away!!!”

**Alliteration:** When several words that begin with the same letter are close together. The beginning of the words need to sound the same but don’t have to be spelled the same.

EX: Till last by PHILIP’S FARM I FLOW.

**Consonance:** The repetition of CONSONANT sounds in words that are close together. It usually comes at the end of words.

EX: I woke with a particular feeling

That I was floating on top of the ceiling.

**Assonance:** When the same VOWEL sound is repeated in words that are close together. The sounds need to be the same, BUT, they don’t have to be spelled the same.

EX: By THIRTY hills I HURRY down.

**Rhyme:** The repetition of syllable sounds.

EX: Jack and Jill went up the hill

**Rhyme Scheme:** The pattern in which the end rhyme occurs.

EX: Look at the example for line/stanza. What is the rhyme scheme?

Try this ….What is the rhyme scheme?

Twinkle, Twinkle little star,

How I wonder what you are.

Up above the world so high,

Like a diamond in the sky.

**Rhythm/Meter:** The pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables. Gives a poem a “beat.”

**Personification:** Giving human qualities to an animal, an object or idea.

EX:

**Simile:** Comparing two things using the words “like” or “as.”

EX:

**Metaphor:** Comparing two things without using the words “like” or “as.”

Usually, metaphors comparing using “is” or “are.”

EX:

**Onomatopoeia:** Words whose sounds suggests their meaning,.

EX:

**Idiom:** A word or phrase which means something different from what it says- it is an expression. Usually is a metaphor.

EX:

**Symbolism:** Representing one person or object or idea by using something else.

A concrete object that represents an abstract idea.

EX:

**Hyperbole:** Use of extreme exaggeration.

EX:

**Tone:** THE ATTITUDE OF AN AUTHOR towards the subject that he/she is writing about.

**Mood:** The atmosphere or feeling an author creates FOR THE READER in a piece of writing. The overall feeling of a work. (eerie, frightening, chaotic.)

**Theme:** The main idea; the underlying message the author wants you to think about.

EX:

**Generalization:** A vague or indefinite statement that is made to cover many cases.

EX: “Everyone is so immature!”

**Moral:** A LESSON taught by a literary work.

EX: Never talk to strangers. Always do your best. Never say never.

**Allusion:** A *reference* to a person, place, thing, idea or another literary work.