

Step 3 After reading the poem, students identify four poetic devices in the poem. Students should copy the examples, label each device, and explain the meanings and/or how each device contributes to the meaning of the poem.

Step 4 Students share and discuss their examples.

Assessment/Evidence

Correct identification and explanation of poetic devices within the poem.
Class discussion.

Adaptations for Beginning Students

Beginning students may work with a partner and/or explain fewer (two) examples of poetic devices.

Adaptations for Advanced Students

Teacher Reflection/Lesson Evaluation

This lesson was created by Middletown ABLE.

Poetic Devices

Poetry is a means of expressing one's ideas, emotions, or opinions. Often, the only tool an author has for creating his work is words. In poetry, the message is communicated through word choice, arrangement, sound, and rhythm. Poetry is not required to follow the same rules as prose writing, and so standard conventions such as capitalization and punctuation are choices that contribute to the form and meaning of the poem.

Poetic devices are ways in which words can be used and arranged to communicate a specific feeling or meaning. Common poetic devices are listed below:

- **alliteration** – intentional repetition of a consonant sound
- **allusion** - a reference to a person, place, or event of which most people are aware
- **assonance** – intentional repetition of a vowel sound
- **hyperbole** - an exaggeration or overstatement
- **imagery** – words, phrases, or details that appeal to the senses
- **internal rhyme** – the use of rhyme within one line of poetry
- **metaphor** - comparison of unlike things without using *like* or *as* (e.g. stating one thing *is* another)
- **meter** - rhythm or pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables
- **onomatopoeia** – a word that imitates a sound
- **personification** - giving human characteristics to the non-living
- **repetition** – the re-use or repeating of words, phrases, lines, or stanzas
- **rhyme** – the similarity of ending sounds in two words
- **rhyme scheme** – the pattern by which lines of poetry are grouped
- **simile** - comparison of unlike things using *like* or *as*
- **stanza** – grouping of two or more lines of poetry by length, rhythm, rhyme, and/or idea (also called a verse)
- **symbol** – an object or action that represents something other than its literal meaning

Read the selected poem two times.

1. In the first reading, concentrate on understanding the poem.

a. Look up unfamiliar vocabulary words.

b. Think about what message the poet is communicating. What idea or feeling are you left with after reading the poem?

2. As you reread the poem, look for four examples of poetic devices. For each example, write the following:

a. Type of poetic device

b. Copy the line (or lines) in which it occurs.

c. What does it mean OR what effect does it have on the poem?

Example #1

Example #2

Example #3

Example #4