Poetic Devices

Stanza	A group of lines in a poem, considered as a unit, and usually separated by a space in the poem
Run-on Line	A line in which thought continues, without pause, into the next line
End- stopped Line	The end of a line coincides with a pause or with the end of a thought; usually marked by some sort of punctuation such as a period, a comma, or a dash
	HAT End-stopped line
	Teddy said it was a hat, So I put it on. Now Dad is saying, "Where the heck's the toilet plunger gone?" Run-on line
Rhyme	The repetition of sounds at the ends of words
End Rhyme	Rhyming words are repeated at the ends of nes <i>Example:</i> I am <u>Sam</u> . Sam I <u>am</u> . I do not like green eggs and <u>ham</u> .
Internal Rhyme	Rhyming words fall within a line <i>Example:</i> The <u>dog</u> chased after the <u>frog</u> while the <u>cat</u> sat on the <u>mat</u> .
Free verse	Poetry that lacks a regular rhythmical pattern or meter; writer is at liberty to use any rhythms that are appropriate to what he or she is saying
Caesura	A pause or break in the middle of a line of poetry <i>Example:</i> So I haven't got a horn—I'll play my nose
Diction	A style of speaking or writing determined by the choice of words by a speaker or writer. <i>Examples:</i> Formal: She was angry. Casual: She was mad. Colloquial: She was ticked!

Consonance	The repetition of consonant sounds at the ends of words or accented syllables Example: But if he ask where you are <u>bid</u> Gesture, coquette, and shake your <u>head</u> !
Assonance	The repetition of vowel sounds in
	conjunction with dissimilar consonant sounds
	<i>Example:</i> The new d <u>ice</u> were tw <u>ice</u> as n <u>ice</u> .
Alliteration	The repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words or syllables used to link and emphasize ideas and to create pleasing, musical sounds <i>Example:</i> <u>S</u> arah <u>C</u> ynthia <u>Sylvia</u> <u>S</u> tout
Figurative Language	Writing or speech not meant to be taken literally but used to express ideas in vivid, imaginative ways <i>Examples:</i> ✓ You're walking on thin ice.
	 ✓ Go fly a kite. ✓ Don't cry over spilled milk. ✓ Cat got your tongue? ✓ Break a leg.
Hyperbole	An exaggeration representing something as larger, better, or worse than it really is <i>Example:</i>
	l've told you a million times that I don't want you to call me.
Metaphor	A figure of speech in which one thing is spoken of as though it were something else; two unlike objects are compared <u>without</u> using the words "like" or "as"
	<i>Example:</i> Juliette is the sun.
Simile	A comparison of two unlike things using the words "like" or "as" <i>Example:</i>
	Your eyes are like the deepest sea.

PersonificationA figure of speech in which a nonhuman subject is given human characteristicsDescriptionExample: The daffodils danced in the breeze.OnomatopoeiaThe use of words that imitate soundsDescriptionThe use of words that imitate soundsExample:THE FOURTH By Shel SilversteinOh CRASH! my BASSH! it's BANG! the ZANG! fourth WOOSH! of BAROOM! July WHEW!ParadoxA statement that seems to be contradictory but that actually presents a truth Example: Much Madness is divinest Sense— Much Sense—the starkest Madness—SpeckerThe voice of a poem; the speaker may or may not be the poet and could be a fictional character, an inanimate object, or anything nonhumanToneThe writer's attitude toward his or her subject, characters, or audienceSymbolObjects or actions with literal significance that also stand for or represent something elseThemeA central message or insight into life, society, or human nature revealed by a literary work		
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	Theme	life, society, or human nature

Imagery	The use of images in a single word or phrase that appeals to one or more of the five senses (sight, sound, touch, taste, smell)
	<i>Example:</i> HARLEM By Langston Hughes
	What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up Like a raisin in the sun? Or fester like a sore – And then run? Does it stink like rotten meat? Or crust and sugar over – Like a syrupy sweet? Maybe it just sags Like a heavy load. Or does it explode?