

## POETRY

### **Figurative language**

A form of language use in which writers and speakers convey something other than the literal meaning of their words. Examples include simile, hyperbole, alliteration, metaphor, personification, onomatopoeia, and oxymoron.

To remember the following POETIC DEVICES, use the acronym SHAMPOO.

**S** – simile: makes an explicit comparison between two things by using words such as *like, as, and than*

**H** – hyperbole: exaggeration, often extravagant; it may be used for serious or for comic effect.

**A** – alliteration: the repetition of the same consonant sounds at the beginnings of nearby words.

**M** – metaphor: a comparison of two dissimilar things which does not use "like" or "as," e.g., "my love is a red, red rose".

**P** – personification: the attribution of human characteristics to nonhuman things.

**O** – onomatopoeia: the use of a word that resembles the sound it denotes (e.g., quack, buzz, rattle, bang, squeak, zip, etc.).

**O** – oxymoron: a condensed form of paradox in which two contradictory words are used together (e.g., military intelligence, government efficiency, etc.).

**Speaker:** the voice used by the author (the poet) in the poem. Often a created identity rather than the author's actual self.

**Line:** a sequence of words printed as a separate entity on the page. In poetry, lines are usually measured by the number of feet they contain.

**Stanza:** a grouping of lines, set off by a space, that usually has a set pattern of meter and rhyme.

**Diction:** a writer's choice of words, phrases, sentence structures, and figurative language, which combine to help create meaning.