

## Literary terms – poetry

### **Assonance**

Assonance is the **repetition** of a **vowel sound within words**.

Examples: free and easy / make the grade

And so, all the night-tide, I lie down by the side  
Of my darling, my darling, my life and my bride.

--Edgar Allan Poe, "Annabel Lee"

### **Alliteration**

Alliteration is the **repetition** of a **consonant sound** at the **beginning of words**.

Examples: do or die / safe and sound / now or never / sweet smill of success

Touch each object you want to touch as if tomorrow your tactile sense would fail.

--Helen Keller, "The Seeing See Little"

### **Consonance**

Consonance is the **repetition** of **consonant sounds within or at the end of words**.

Consonance is very similar to alliteration, but the distinction between the two lies in the placement of the sounds. If the repeated sound is at the start of the words, it is alliteration. If it is anywhere else, it is consonance. In most cases, consonance refers to the end sound (like "nk" in blank and think)

Example:

as in guys she gently sways at ease

-- Robert Frost, "The Silken Tent"

### **Comparing Alliteration, Assonance and Consonance:**

There is an example of all three of these terms in one line of the poem "The Raven," written by Edgar Allan Poe:

And the silken sad uncertain rustling of each purple curtain

Highlight the assonance in red

Highlight the consonance in green

Highlight the alliteration in blue

Distinction between the three terms:

vowel or consonant sound? / placement within the words?

### **Mood**

Mood is the **emotions** that **you feel while** you are **reading**. Some literature makes you feel sad, others joyful, still others, angry. The main purpose for some poems is to set a mood.

### **Onomatopoeia**

The use of **words** to **imitate sounds** is called onomatopoeia.

Examples : Bang, pop, hiss, and sizzle.

## POETIC DEVICES QUIZ

Name:

**Match the sound device to its definition and the BEST example.**

- A. Alliteration
- B. Assonance
- C. Consonance
- D. Onomatopoeia

- \_\_\_\_\_ The sound of the word echoes the original sound  
\_\_\_\_\_ The repetition of vowel sounds within words  
\_\_\_\_\_ The repetition of consonant sounds at the ends of words  
\_\_\_\_\_ The repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words or syllables
- \_\_\_\_\_ "It shushes/ It hushes/ The loudness in the road."  
\_\_\_\_\_ "A single swan, swinging, sleek as a sequin."  
\_\_\_\_\_ "Try to light the fire"  
\_\_\_\_\_ "He struck a streak of bad luck"

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