**English II: Quarter 1**

*Symbolism*: The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities different from their literal sense

i.e. “Ah Sunflower, weary of time,

Who countest the steps of the sun;

Seeking after that sweet golden clime

Where the traveler’s journey is done” --- William Blake (from “Ah Sunflower”)

Blake uses a sunflower as a symbol for human beings and “the sun” symbolizes life. Therefore, these lines symbolically refer to their life cycle and their yearning for a never-ending life.

*Conceit*: an extended or elaborate metaphor

i.e. “Thou counterfeit’st a bark, a sea, a wind;

For still thy eyes, which I may call the sea,

Do ebb and flow with tears; the bark thy body is,

Sailing in this salt flood; the winds, thy sighs;

Who, raging with thy tears, and they with them,

Without a sudden calm, will overset

Thy tempest-tossed body.” ---- William Shakespeare (from *Romeo and Juliet)*

Capulet compares Juliet to a boat in a storm. The comparison is an extended metaphor where he compares her eyes to a sea, her tears to a storm, her sighs to the stormy winds and her body to a boat in a storm.

*Tone*: the attitude of an author/narrator toward a subject or an audience

i.e. “And the trees all died. They were orange trees. I don’t know why they died, they just died. Something wrong with the soil possibly or maybe the stuff we got from the nursery wasn’t the best. We complained about it. So we’ve got thirty kids there, each kid had his or her own little tree to plant and we’ve got these thirty dead trees. All these kids looking at these little brown sticks, it was depressing.” – Donald Barthelme (from “The School”)

The use of adjectives “dead” and “depressing” sets a gloomy tone in the passage. As trees signify life here, their unexpected “death” from an unknown cause gives the above passage an unhappy and pessimistic tone.

*Purpose*: The writer or speaker’s intention for composing the literary piece (i.e. to inform, persuade, entertain, etc.)

*Audience*: The readership of a literary piece

*Point of view*: The mode of narration or particular attitude of the author or speaker in relation to the literary piece; the p.o.v. might also reflect a specific opinion about something (Know the difference among 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person p.o.v.)

i.e. “I gazed–and gazed–but little thought

What wealth the show to me had brought.” --- William Wordsworth (from “Daffodils”)

The use of the pronoun “I” gives a special quality to the feelings expressed in these lines. The reader can see that the poet has employed first person point of view to share with us his own personal emotions.

*Rhetorical appeals*: Methods of persuasion, which originated from Aristotle

 *-Ethos:* An argument based on credibility and/or authority

 *-Pathos:* An argument that evokes emotion (i.e. fear, anger, sympathy, desire, etc.)

 *-Logos*: An argument grounded in logic, facts, and figures

*Theme*: the central idea of a literary piece

i.e. in *The Book Thief*: The power of words, the kindness and cruelty of humans, etc.

 *The Catcher in the Rye*: The painfulness of growing up, The “phoniness” of the adult world, etc.

*Characterization:* The process of how characters are introduced and developed throughout a literary work

*Motif*: a dominant idea threaded throughout a literary piece

i.e. in *The Book Thief*: books and writing, stealing, etc.

 *The Catcher in the Rye:* loneliness, lying/deception, etc.

*Foreshadowing:* The literary technique where the writer provides a hint of warning or indication of a future event

*Figurative language:* An expression of something other than what is literally meant for an effect (i.e. simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, etc.)

*Conflict:* A disparity, prolonged struggle, and/or incompatibility between two or more opinions, principles, interests, etc.

*Irony:* The literary technique where words are used in a way different from their intended meaning typically for humorous and/or emphatic effect (i.e. dramatic irony, situational irony)

“Water, water, everywhere,

And all the boards did shrink;

Water, water, everywhere,

Nor any drop to drink.” --- Samuel Coleridge (from “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”)

In the above stated lines, the ship, blown by the south wind, is stranded in the uncharted sea. Ironically, there is water everywhere but they do not have a single drop of water to drink.

*Allegory:* A narrative that involves characters, events, etc. which stand for an abstract idea or event; its objective is to teach some kind of moral lesson

i.e. *Animal Farm*, written by George Orwell, is an allegory that uses animals on a farm to describe the overthrow of the last of the Russian Tsar Nicholas II and the Communist Revolution of Russia before WW II. The actions of the animals on the farm are used to expose the greed and corruption of the revolution. It also describes how powerful people can change the ideology of a society.

*Repetition:* A literary technique where the author or speaker uses the same words or phrases for an effect

*Parallelism:* The use of successive verbal constructions that correspond in grammatical structure, sound, meter, and/or meaning

i.e. “What the hammer? what the chain?

In what furnace was thy brain?

What the anvil? what dread grasp

Dare its deadly terrors clasp?” --- William Blake (from “The Tyger”)

*Antithesis:* The rhetorical device that expresses the joining of two opposite ideas for an effect

i.e. “Better to reign in Hell, than serve in Heav’n.” – John Milton (from *Paradise Lost*)

The contrasting ideas of “reign”/ “serve” and “Hell”/ “Heav’n” are placed in a sentence to achieve an antithetical effect.

*Exclamation:* An exclamatory expression in literature of surprise, anger, pain, etc.

*Restatement:* To state something again or differently for clarity or emphatic effect

*Anaphora:* As a rhetorical device, the repetition of the first part of the sentence to achieve an artistic effect

i.e. “Five years have passed;

Five summers, with the length of

Five long winters! and again I hear these waters…” – William Wordsworth (from “Tintern Abbey”)

*Rhetorical question:* A question asked for effect or emphasis on a point discussed; no real answer is expected

i.e. “O Wind,

If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?” --- Percy B. Shelley (from “Ode to the West Wind”)

The poet achieves the desired effect by asking this rhetorical question instead of making a statement. The answer to this question is not sought; rather, an effect is successfully created giving a fine finishing touch to the ode.